

Israel to begin pullout in two weeks

King visits Tiberias, exchanges ratified treaties with Rabin

Jordan wants Arafat 'to succeed. Whether he believes it or not, it is up to him ...

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

RAEL IS expected to start withdrawing its forces to the ceasefire lines of 1967 in two weeks, following the completion of the ratification process and exchange of related documents between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Information Minister Walid Al Anani said a joint Jordanian-Israeli committee is expected to meet this week to work out the technicalities of the withdrawal of the way for demarcation of borders.

Dr. Anani said another joint committee will also set to work out the details of mechanism of pumping water to Jordan from the Yarmouk rivers. "The committee will meet this week, and hopefully the process of withdrawal will be a next week," Dr. Anani said the Jordan Times.

Under the peace treaty, which was ratified by the Jordanian parliament and signed into law by the King, Israel will withdraw to the ceasefire lines of 1967 along the borders with Jordan pending the negotiation of the frontier. It will also pump in 50 cubic metres of water Jordan with immediate effect and make arrangements for another 165 million

cubic metres soon in recognition of Jordan's share of the water sources of the region.

In a solemn 15-minute ceremony held on the shores of scenic Lake Tiberias, the King, paying his first visit to Israel, and Mr. Rabin signed the documents of ratification and exchanged them.

In brief comments to the small ceremony attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and a handful of senior Israeli leaders including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the King and Mr. Rabin spoke of a warm peace between Jordan and Israel.

Both leaders also expressed hope that other tracks in the three-year-old Middle East peace process would also see similar progress achieved in the Jordanian-Israeli track.

"This is an honourable peace, a balanced peace, a peace that will last because from the first instance it was our determination to make it so," said the King, who was greeted by more than 2,000 cheering Israeli schoolchildren waving Jordanian and Israeli flags on his way from a helicopter pad to the marble Beit Gibril mansion on the southern tip of Lake Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee.

Against the backdrop of the waters that the Bible says Jesus Christ walked on, the



His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday sign the documents of ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in Tiberias (Photo by Yusef Allan)

King said the peoples of Jordan and Israel were "on the threshold of a peace which I hope generations to come will cherish, protect and enjoy."

Addressing the audience, which included Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Political Adviser Marwan Al Qasem, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani, and Michael Hamarneh, director of the Crown Prince's office, as well as Israeli opposition Likud leader

David Levy and a large number of journalists, Mr. Rabin said: "I believe this is the most beautiful thing, the most beautiful act — to end not the state of war, but to establish the structure of peace, to build the relations of peace."

Speaking only a few kilometres from the occupied Golan Heights, that loomed in the skyline as a reminder of the need to make peace with Syria, Mr. Rabin expressed hope that the Jordanian-

Israeli peace treaty would encourage Syria and Lebanon to follow suit.

"I hope it will serve as an example to the other countries with which we negotiate peace, Syria and Lebanon, and that they will be convinced by what we have achieved together, Your Majesty, and they will follow what has been done between our two countries, between you, Your Majesty, and myself," said the Israeli prime minister.

The King paid special tribute to Crown Prince Hassan and Dr. Majali and his colleagues in government and negotiators for achieving the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Mr. Rabin noted that the Israeli parliament, or Knesset, had ratified the treaty "even before it was signed" and cited this as the best evidence of his country's enthusiasm and commitment to

(Continued on page 2)

Rabin: Settlements are a burden

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin says pursuing the next phase of Israel's peace agreement with the Palestinians would be complicated because of Jewish settlements spread through the West Bank. Mr. Rabin, in comments broadcast on Israeli radio Friday, alluded to the talks set for Nov. 21-22 with the Palestinians over expanding autonomy into the West Bank. "The settlements in heavily populated areas of (the West Bank) are a tremendous security burden on the army," Mr. Rabin said. "When we reach a settlement it will be even more complicated because the settlement planning there wasn't done with security of the residents in mind," Mr. Rabin added. Mr. Rabin's remarks stirred immediate angry reactions amongst settlers. Mr. Rabin also said "the gaps are wide" in U.S.-mediated peace talks with Syria and that only in eight or nine months "we will know where stand."

Opening of northern bridge is green signal for cross-border travel

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDANIANS and Israelis would be able to cross their borders into each other's territory with effect from Sunday, three days after the two countries opened a second crossing in the north, officials said Friday.

The northern crossing at the old Sheikh Hussein Bridge now named Jordan River Bridge was opened by transport ministers Samir Kassar of Jordan and Yisrael Kassar of Israel in a colourful ceremony attended by four other Jordanian and Israeli ministers and a gathering of more than 2,000 people.

Jordan and Israel opened their first border crossing near the ports of Aqaba and Eilat on Aug. 8. The southern crossing was restricted to third country nationals. As of Sunday, both crossings will be available to Jordanians and Israelis for cross-border travel.

Shortly after the northern crossing was opened, His Majesty King Hussein paid his first visit to Israel to ex-

change the documents of ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 (see separate story).

In a brief speech at the opening of the Jordan River Bridge crossing, Mr. Kassar, the Israeli minister, also announced Israeli ports were now available for use by Jordanian exporters and importers.

"The words 'the bridge of peace' are presently receiving their concrete expression, for now we both have a bridge and peace," Mr. Kassar said at the ceremony, broadcast live on Jordan and Israel televisions.

Mr. Kassar described the opening of the crossing as a turning point for Jordan and Israel after 46 years of war and belligerency and said: "The chapter of our sad past is giving way to a new age of peace, tranquillity and prosperity."

Mr. Kassar underlined the importance of the crossing point which provides Jordanians access to Israel's Mediterranean port of Haifa.

(Continued on page 2)

3 bike-bomber kills 3 Israeli soldiers

NETZARIM JUNCTION.

Strip (Agencies) — A bike bomber on a bicycle killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded seven people Friday on the Gaza Strip to avenge the death of an Islamic Jihad

Israeli military Chief of Staff Ehud Barak said the bike bomber was on duty at a post on a road junction kilometres from a Jewish settlement called Netzarim. Four more members of the army were hurt, two seriously, General Barak said. The teenaged cyclist killed of explosive strapped to his body, rode into the

Israeli gunfire after the Gaza City doctors said he had a bullet in his back and the others left hospital for treatment for slight

injuries. Several Palestinians hurt in explosion were helicoptered to hospitals, the official said, but the exact number

of wounded was unclear. Four armed guerrillas claimed responsibility for the blast at a Gaza City memorial ceremony for Hani Abed, a senior Islamic Jihad figure died in a Nov. 2 car bomb which all Palestinian factions blamed on Israel.

Israel's army radio said the bomber was 17 years old and had been a student of Abed, who taught science. The guerrillas declared that the Islamic Jihad had carried out "a heroic military operation" and warned of further killings.

"This is the first act of revenge for Hani Abed," they said as supporters fired celebration shots in the air. Israeli and American flags were burnt.

The blast shattered massive concrete anti-bomb shields and damaged several cars.

The bombing occurred at one of the largest crossroads on Gaza's north-south highway, jointly patrolled by Israeli and Palestinian troops. Israel maintains a checkpoint

there to monitor traffic approaching Netzarim, a tiny settlement that the Palestinians want removed. Palestinian police are stationed several dozen metres nearby.

The bomber apparently took advantage of confusion caused by a planned protest at the intersection by Palestinian demonstrators demanding that Israel lift restrictions on Gaza workers entering its territory imposed after a series of violent attacks.

Both Israeli and Palestinian officials seemed at a loss on dealing with such lightening strikes where their responsibilities overlap. They planned a meeting late Friday on the issue.

"There are no guarantees for anything in life," said Gen. Barak, after inspecting the site. "When a suicide bomber manages to reach such a place there is no sure way to prevent there being victims."

Brigadier Saleem Abu Omar, a Palestinian National Authority (PNA) officer,

said at least one police colonel was lightly injured. He said the bomber apparently slipped past while police were blocking several busloads of Palestinians from entering the intersection to hold a protest.

At a downtown Gaza City rally, Islamic Jihad leader Sheikh Abdullah Shami said the suicide attack was in retaliation for the death of Abed. At the rally of 3,000 outside Abed's house, masked men fired automatic rifles and the announcer bellowed: "This is one of our first responses in answer to the death of Hani Abed."

Islamic Jihad is the smallest and most violent of the groups opposed to the Israel-PLO accord. It is led by Fathi Shikaki, a doctor based in Lebanon and Syria, and reportedly gets support from Iran.

The explosion occurred in an area of the Gaza Strip still controlled by Israeli forces. The army pulled out of most of the Strip when the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) took over in May.

The army stayed in the location to protect Netzarim, an isolated Jewish settlement about 200 metres down the road. From Netzarim, with 180 residents, the outskirts of Gaza City with its 300,000 Palestinian residents are clearly visible.

Israeli troops and PLO police gather at the junction for joint patrols. Leaflets after Abed's death threatened to attack a joint Israel-PLO patrol.

Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu called for halting peace talks with the Palestinians on extending the six-month-old Gaza-Jericho autonomy to the West Bank.

"The first thing is to stop the process that leads to giving them more territory," he said on Israel Radio. "The terror is meant to bring about more Israeli concessions, to achieve the common goal of (PLO leader Yasser) Arafat and Hamas to destroy Israel."

New Mideast depends on peace on all tracks — King

Spanish king, queen begin state visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new Middle East will only dawn when Israel is also at peace with Syria and Lebanon, His Majesty King Hussein said Friday during a dinner with King Juan Carlos of Spain.

"I share with you the hope that the other tracks, which also began in Madrid, would also reach a peace" ensuring U.N. resolutions are implemented, King Hussein said a day after putting the final seal to peace with Israel.

"Only then will the region witness and experience a new era and only then will the people devote themselves to comprehensive development and to the enjoyment of dignified life," he said in a speech.

King Juan Carlos, who arrived here earlier in the day with Queen Sofia as a several-day visit, said: "The time has come for the international community to show its solidarity. Spain will not shirk this duty of solidarity and support."

During his visit, the Spanish monarch will discuss with Jordanian officials ways to ease Jordan's debts to Spain estimated at \$92 million.

The Spanish couple were received at the airport by King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Princess Taghreed, Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath, Princess Basma, Prince Abdullah, Princess Rania, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Princess Ghida Talal, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Prince Ali Ben Nayef and other Royal family members.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Surour, the King's advisors, the Crown Prince's advisors, ministers, senior Royal Court and other officials were also at hand to receive the guests.

He said: "Indeed, it was the Madrid peace conference of 1991 which paved the way for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in our region, a peace based on solid foundations. Jordan and Israel have reached a balanced and honourable peace treaty. We hope that through its imple-



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain at the welcome ceremony for the Spanish royal couple who arrived in Amman on a several-day visit on Friday (Photo by Yusef Allan)

King Juan Carlos is accompanied on the visit by an official delegation that includes the foreign minister, the foreign trade minister and senior officials.

Later Friday, King Hussein and Queen Noor visited King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia in their residence in Amman and exchanged with them token gifts.

In his dinner speech, King Hussein paid tribute to Spain and its policies in the Middle East as well as Jordan-Spain relations.

He said: "Indeed, it was the Madrid peace conference of 1991 which paved the way for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in our region, a peace based on solid foundations. Jordan and Israel have reached a balanced and honourable peace treaty. We hope that through its imple-

mentation, our people will have the opportunity to achieve their education, economic, cultural and scientific aspirations in a new atmosphere of security and stability, which our region has been deprived of for many decades."

"Our march towards democracy continues and I am proud to see it take full form in shaping the modern Jordanian state — a state that is governed by a well-grounded Constitution that clearly defines rights and responsibilities of all its citizens, and a National Charter which paved the way for political pluralism."

"To this day, we stand by the opinion of our Arabs who saw Spain as a dear and friendly state, one which embodies a valuable link with

(Continued on page 7)

U.N. cautious on Iraqi recognition of Kuwait

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

Members of the Security Council have had Iraq's diplomatic recognition of Kuwait with caution, optimism, saying the council meets only one of the conditions for lifting the embargo imposed during 1990 Gulf crisis.

Deputy Prime Minister Aziz was expected to meet Monday on the demand with the current member of the Security Council, U.S. Ambassador Elaine Albright. The Security Council also plans to vote on the matter that same

saying late on Thursday after ending a visit to Baghdad.

"In the case of Iraq, it should be quite possible to lift the blockade step-by-step," he said.

Russia led international efforts to persuade Baghdad to recognise Kuwait. It sees an easing of sanctions, imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, as a natural step following Baghdad's recognition of its neighbour on Thursday.

Other Security Council members reacted cautiously to Iraq's decision, although many said privately it was a very important step towards an eventual lifting of sanctions.

But in an initial U.S. reaction, White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said Iraq's recognition must be in "practice as well as in words" and that Baghdad has to comply with other U.N. resolutions before sanctions can be lifted.

Mr. Kozyrev, who spearheaded the Russian diplomatic drive to persuade

Baghdad to recognise its neighbour, said it would take time for mistrust of Iraq to disappear.

"But the sun is already shining and its rays give hope that warmer days are to come," he told reporters during his flight back to Moscow after attending the session of parliament at which Iraq recognised Kuwait.

He said Moscow, an ally of Iraq and its principal arms supplier during Soviet times, was ready to support Iraq.

"Under present conditions, Russia is prepared to offer its support to Iraq, now that Baghdad has changed its policy and confirmed this by specific constructive steps in complying with the U.N. resolutions," Tass quoted him as saying.

The United States and Britain have said Iraq must stop its "mistreatment" of the Kurds and Shiite Muslims before they vote to lift the sanctions. And Iraq has not met Washington's requirement that it compensate those who lost relatives,

property or business during the seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

"Recognition of Kuwait's border would be an important step in the direction of compliance by Iraq... but not the only step," said British Ambassador Sir David Hannay.

"The failure to take this step was clearly an important impediment to any determination that Iraq was in compliance with Security Council resolutions," he said.

Mr. Hannay said the council was still concerned that Iraq might have more concealed chemical and biological weapons. It will be up to Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission overseeing the elimination of Iraq's mass destruction weapons, to determine when Iraq has met that requirement.

Mr. Ekeus told reporters Thursday that the United Nations has information that Iraq has received material and equipment that could be used to make chemical

weapons, but Baghdad has not informed his commission.

"This refusal to give us a full accounting creates problems," he said, adding he is sending a deputy to Baghdad to discuss the issue with Iraqi authorities.

Pakistan's Ambassador Jamsheed Marker said the Iraqi move was "certainly a hopeful sign."

French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee said, "We shall have to see if it (the recognition) being put out to the council in the required form... let's wait and see."

China welcomed Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, calling for the international community to now consider the gradual lifting of the crippling sanctions.

"We welcome Iraq's official recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. This is a major step towards the final settlement of the issues left over from the Gulf war," Foreign Ministry spokesman

(Continued on page 3)

Israel, Jordan and PLO aim for water charter

ATHENS (Agencies) — Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians have agreed to launch talks aimed at drawing up a "water charter" to manage vital water resources in the Middle East.

The agreement between the three of the leading players in the Middle East peace process was announced after three days of multilateral talks on water resources.

Talks coordinator Richard Lebaron, director of Near Eastern Affairs with the U.S. State Department, said the joint working group on water had taken "substantial steps forward."

"The three parties agreed to begin discussions on principles or guidelines for cooperation on water issues," he told a press conference.

Israeli delegation chief Avraham Katz-Oz told AFP a final agreement on regional water-sharing would need the participation of Syria and Lebanon, which are both boycotting multilateral talks.

"We call them more and more to join us, their empty chairs are there and we need them for a global solution," he said.

Multilateral talks sponsored by the U.S. and Russia were launched at the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid. Special committee are dealing with five areas: water resources, economic cooperation, the environment, arms control and refugees.

A total of 160 experts representing 45 delegations, including 13 Middle East countries, are taking part in multilateral talks on water.

Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian delegations already set up a group in Oslo last July to study the judicial and institutional aspects of water management.

A European report presented here stresses that water is of vital importance to

lasting peace in the Middle East, which suffers from severe water shortages.

Between 1990 and 2020, water resources will fall by 390 cubic metres per person per year to 250 cubic metres in Israel, by 210 cubic metres to 63 in Jordan, by 500 cubic metres in the West Bank and by 143 cubic metres (185 cubic yards) to 45 in Gaza.

Palestinians announced last April the creation of a water agency, but it has not yet been set up.

"We are disappointed to see the Palestinians incapable of overcoming their problems of authority when it comes to such a crucial resource as water, and we hope the problem of cholera will help them to realise this," said one European delegation chief who asked not to be named.

Hospitals in Gaza had diagnosed 26 cases of cholera Wednesday. Palestinians said the sources of the bacteria had not been identified.

Mr. Lebaron said there had also been progress in the creation of a regional data bank on water, which would cost \$12 million and take three years to set up.

The United States and Canada had already offered funding.

Nine delegations also offered training courses for regional experts. Luxembourg offered to finance an experimental farm irrigated by treated salt water in Gaza.

Meanwhile host country Greece said it would study surplus water resources in the Mediterranean region and ways to transport them to the Middle East.

The office of the State Department spokesman on Wednesday released the following statement by Christine Shelly, acting spokesman:

The Middle East Multilateral Working Group on

Water Resources met in Athens, Greece, from Nov. 7-9. Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias addressed a Greek-led project and training course on water resources.

Approximately 160 officials representing 45 delegations from around the world, including 13 parties from the Middle East, attended the meeting. The United States held the gavel for the meeting.

The working group took substantial steps forward with its major ongoing projects:

— The Omani efforts to create a regional desalination research centre in Muscat were strongly endorsed by all the regional parties.

The group identified specific sites and next steps for the Israeli-led project on rehabilitating municipal water supply systems.

— Nine delegations offered to conduct courses related to previously identified, specific needs for expertise in water matters in the Middle East.

— The group endorsed a detailed plan for compatible regional water data banks. The United States and Canada offered financial support for the project.

— The Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians agreed to begin discussion on principles or guidelines for cooperation on water issues.

— The group agreed to undertake a German-led study that will analyse the various options for enhancing water supply in the region.

The group agreed on the need to create greater public awareness of the multilateral negotiations, and particularly to follow up on the Casablanca economic summit to further involve the private sector in the work of the water resources working group.

Israel to begin pullout in 2 weeks

(Continued from page 1)

peace with the Kingdom.

Earlier, the formal exchange of the documents of ratification of the treaty, which was signed by Dr. Majali and Mr. Rabin in a glittering ceremony attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton on Oct. 26 in the Wadi Araba desert, only took a few minutes.

Sitting behind a brown mahogany desk decorated with golden designs, the King and Mr. Rabin signed two sets of documents covered in brown leather and exchanged the documents along with a thick blue bound volume of the peace treaty as the Jordanian and Israeli delegations sat in a semicircle at the site, only a few metres from the blue waters of Lake Tiberias.

The King and the entourage had flown to Tiberias aboard Jordanian helicopters which landed at a pad some 400 metres from Beit Gabriel.

Accompanied by Mr. Rabin, Mr. Peres and other Israeli officials, the King strolled through the decorated streets where Israeli schoolchildren lined up waving the flags of the two countries.

The King, looking very relaxed, shook hands with many of the children and kissed a baby girl.

The entire area was sealed off, with access available only to security officials and journalists with special passes. Not more than two dozen Israeli officials were present during the ceremony as an Israeli coast guard and two speedboats kept an alert watch of the waters of the Lake.

Following the ceremony, the King and the delegation accompanying him held about two hours of talks with

Mr. Rabin and other Israeli leaders.

Dr. Anani said the talks went "very well" and dealt with the "formalities" of implementing the peace treaty, but he would not elaborate on details.

However, he said, among the immediate measures will also be linking the national power grids of the two countries as well as opening an "extra channel" for an already built microwave link for telecommunications. Certain laws to reflect the state of peace with Israel, will also be amended, he said.

Jordan and Israel will also announce the establishment of diplomatic relations and open embassies in Tel Aviv and Amman. The treaty says that the "parties agree to establish full diplomatic relations and exchange resident ambassadors within one month of the exchange of the instruments of ratification of this treaty."

Following the talks, the King, who returned home after a 2½-hour visit, told Israeli reporters at Beit Gabriel that he would visit Jerusalem "in the very near future" but would not set a date.

Standing next to the King, Mr. Rabin said His Majesty was welcome to visit Jerusalem "any time he pleases" and the King nodded the agreement.

In response to a question on a telephone call he received from Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Wednesday, the King said: "I assured him that many of us want him to succeed" in his efforts to realise his peace accord with Israel. "Whether he believes it or not, it's up to him, but this is really the truth," the King said.

The King said he had the impression that a meeting Mr. Arafat had with Mr. Rabin Tuesday night at the Erez crossing point was "very, very successful."

During that meeting Mr. Rabin assured Mr. Arafat that Israel intended to speed up the process of expanding Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank after the town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip went under Palestinian autonomy in May.

Earlier, Mr. Arafat, eager to ease tension with Jordan over Jerusalem, wants to meet King Hussein in Amman soon, a PLO official said on Thursday.

"Arafat may be visiting Jordan and meeting King Hussein soon," the official said.

The PLO chairman wants to ease strains caused by the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty which give the Hashemite Kingdom a role in supervising Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat's press advisor Nabil Abu Rudeineh said Mr. Arafat telephoned King Hussein on Wednesday night and discussed latest developments in the peace process.

Mr. Abu Rudeineh said Mr. Arafat informed King Hussein of his talks with Mr. Rabin on Tuesday.

"It was decided that contacts between them would continue," he added.

The telephone conversation was the first between the two leaders since Mr. Arafat returned to self-ruled Gaza in July.

PLO officials said there was urgent need to coordinate with Jordan on other issues such as water, Palestinian refugees and trade.

Peace with Syria and Lebanon soon — Beilin

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "We are going to have peace with Syria," Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told a Brookings Institution press conference Thursday. "Unless there is a very big surprise," he said, the peace process "is irreversible."

The main issue separating Israel and Syria remains the Golan Heights. While acknowledging that the question of security poses difficulties for both sides, Beilin said "it is not insurmountable."

Once an agreement with Damascus can be worked out, Beilin is confident that peace with Lebanon will soon follow. Although he did not link Syria explicitly to Hizbollah, the pro-Iranian fundamentalists, he said that an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon could take place only after Hizbollah units in the region no longer pose a threat. He made clear, however, that Israel was anxious to pull out of the region. "We don't want to remain in south Lebanon," he stated.

Mr. Beilin conceded that relations remain difficult with the Palestinians and that the two sides' views differ considerably on the scope of elections called for in last year's Oslo agreement.

According to Mr. Beilin, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has been seeking to circumvent the agreement by calling for elections to national office — president and parliament — instead of the executive council which

both sides agreed to during the present interim period. Israel is not ready to accept what Mr. Arafat wants in this regard, he said. To change the rules in such manner is "very, very difficult," and he predicted that negotiations could drag on for a long time if the Palestinians persist.

Mr. Beilin also rejected the idea that Israel has deliberately asked Arafat to do too much, by insisting that he subdue Hamas, the Gaza-based Palestinian fundamentalist movement which opposes peace with Israel. Mr. Arafat, he said, "did some things, but he did not do enough." He did not elaborate on this point, however.

On the other hand, Mr. Beilin was positive about the business and diplomatic prospects he sees opening up in the Middle East, citing recent meetings at the Casablanca summit and with Arab leaders in Qatar, Oman and at the Arab League.

In the final analysis, however, the region's most pressing concern may be demographic, not political. "The most important problem in our part of the world," Mr. Beilin says, "is that the increase of population, much greater than the increase in the economy. Given the birth rate, the man on the street is not likely to feel the impact of foreign assistance, even if it is substantial, he said. That is "a problem we don't have an answer to."

More Arab-Americans enter U.S. Congress in elections

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The ranks of Arab-Americans in the U.S. Congress have increased to five in this off-year general elections, which saw the Republican Party take control of the two legislatures for the first time in four decades.

At the local level, at least 13 more won office Nov. 8 in the nationwide elections, including four state senators and six state representatives. The fate of six others have not yet been determined while eight have failed in their bid for election.

The two houses of the U.S. Congress, which rarely meet together except on major occasions, like the State of the Union address from the president at the beginning of each year, is formed of a 100-man Senate, whose members serve for six years and a 435-member House of Representatives, which is re-elected every two years.

Spencer Abraham, a Republican from Michigan, became the fourth Arab-American to win a seat in the Senate. Four other Arab-Americans were elected to the House of Representatives.

Ray LaHood, a Republican from Illinois, and John Baldacci, a Democrat from Maine, were the two newly elected members of the House of Representatives. They join the re-elected incumbents, Nick Joe Rahall, a Democrat from West Virginia who is now serving his ninth term, and Pat Danner, a Democrat from Missouri, who is completing her first term.

But the Arab-American legislators will be losing a key Senator when the new Congress begins its new session next January. He is Majority Leader George Mitchell, a Democrat from Maine, who announced earlier this year he would not seek reelection to the prestigious Senate.

Other Arab-Americans who were elected to the Senate in the past were James Abourezk, who is at present Chairman of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, and Jim Abdnor, who was until recently head of the Small Business Administration.

The 42-year-old Abraham, son of an autoworker for General Motors and a graduate of the Harvard Law School, has occupied several key positions in the Republican Party in his own state and nationally. He was the co-chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee when Republicans won 10 new seats in the 1992 general elections, in spite of the defeat of former President George Bush.

More significantly, he was also deputy chief of staff for

former Vice President Dan Quayle, who is now believed to have presidential aspirations.

A conservative Republican who was instrumental in the founding of the "Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy," Mr. Abraham is a second-generation Arab-American. He and his wife are the parents of twin daughters born over a year ago.

Mr. LaHood is not a newcomer to the U.S. Congress. At present, he is the chief of staff for Representative Bob Michel, the retiring House Minority Leader and whose seat LaHood will be occupying next year.

A onetime state representative in the Illinois General Assembly, the 49-year-old LaHood lists economic development and constituent services as his key interests.

Mr. Baldacci, whose mother is of Lebanese origin, has been serving as a state senator in the Maine legislature for the last 12 years. Born in Bangor, Maine, 39 years ago, the state senator runs, with his brothers, the family restaurant business.

A prominent loser in the election was Eddie Basba, the only Arab-American gubernatorial candidate. He was earlier believed to have a good chance of winning the governorship of Arizona.

Way clear for border travel

(Continued from page 1)

"Facilitating the movement of people and goods is of great importance to encouraging economic relations in the Middle East," he told the gathering of Jordanians, Israelis, foreign diplomats and a large number of international and regional journalists.

As the minister spoke, shouts of "long live His Majesty the King" in Arabic came from the Jordanian side of the audience. "What are they saying?" whispered an Israeli standing next to this reporter. When told they were paying tribute to the King, the man's face lit up. "That's more like it," he said, applauding.

That sentiment appeared to run through the entire Israeli crowd at the gathering.

Israel's Minister of Housing and Construction Benyamim Ben Eliezar, who spoke in Hebrew, Arabic and English, also emphasised the role of the crossing. "Industrial goods produced in factories in Irbid and Amman can now reach the Haifa Port," he said.

Also speaking on the occasion was Minister of Agriculture Abdul Razak Ensour and his Israeli counterpart Yacov Tsur and Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Ishaidat. The central theme of the speeches was clear: Jordan and Israel have entered a new era of peace and cooperation, and both sides were committed to a "warm peace" entailing full cooperation in various fields unlike the "cold peace" that Egypt and Israel have had since

they signed their Camp David agreement in 1978.

Mr. Tsur said Jordan and Israel stood to gain a lot from pooled efforts in agriculture in the Jordan Valley through cooperation in new technologies and marketing techniques.

The Associated Press quoted Mr. Tsur as saying that Israel was looking for Jordanian tomatoes to address an immediate shortage caused by a ban on import of produce from the Gaza Strip, where at least 20 cases of cholera were diagnosed last week.

The opening ceremony was held on the Israeli side of the bridge and Jordan Television news editor Mureed Hamad and Israel television commentator Daniel Peer acted as masters of ceremonies, with Mr. Hamad speaking in Arabic and Mr. Peer in Hebrew with English interspersed between them.

Following the speeches, the ministers proceeded to the Jordanian side of the bridge, where Mr. Kassar and Mr. Kassar cut a ribbon, and then one on the Israeli side, formally marking the opening of the bridge.

The governor of Irbid and its counterpart from the Israeli town of Bet Shean, the commander of Jordan's 12th Royal Mechanised Division and the head of Israel's Central Command also took part in the formal ceremony. The two military commanders also exchanged gifts.

"The Jordan River Bridge of peace is now formally open," intoned the commentators.

Forty students on both sides attended the ceremony and released white pigeons. "Symbols of peace," said Mr. Hamad and Mr. Peer in their synchronised comments.

Fifteen small Israeli planes, flown by members of the Israeli Flying Association, flew over the site of the ceremony, with one of them trailing a banner that read "Shalom, Peace, Salam" in Hebrew, English and Arabic.

After the ceremonies, the ministers and a group of several dozen Israeli dignitaries crossed to the Jordanian side and sipped Arabic coffee under a tent.

Caravan-based border crossing facilities — immigration, customs, health, banking, car rentals and other related services — have been set up on the Jordanian side at the hastily renovated site.

Israelis have set an elaborate border crossing point on their side of the bridge. Located on a 10-acre area, the facilities bear a look of permanent presence.

The first group of Israeli tourists is expected to cross on Sunday. It was not immediately known when the first Jordanian traveller to Israel would be using the crossing.

Although the bridge, a steel structure built by the Royal Engineering Corps of the Jordanian Armed Forces, looks too narrow, it can accommodate trucks and buses and thus serve Jordanian traders. Eventually, the bridge would be converted into a concrete structure with four lanes for traffic.

Senior Iranian cleric lashes out at writers

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian cleric Friday lashed out at a group of the nation's pre-eminent writers who last month demanded an end to official harassment and censorship.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organisation and a member of several key parliamentary and official organisations, said those writers wanted nothing more than to corrupt the nation's youth.

"You are the kind of people who want the freedom to translate sexy Western books and put them in the hands of the young. This is what your hearts are pining for," he said in a weekly sermon at Tehran University.

Last month 134 writers and poets wrote an open letter to the government criticising the "anti-democratic practices" of Iran's Islamic regime.

Iranian intellectuals, ranging from filmmakers to university professors, have in the past criticised the restrictions on freedom of expression imposed by the government, often at great risk to themselves.

But the open letter was the first time such a collective protest has been submitted to the clerical establishment since the creation of the Islamic republic after the 1979 revolution.

Ayatollah Jannati's sermon was the first response to the letter by an official.

Last month the English-language Tehran Times said that Iran "does not pretend to have a government that tolerates unlimited freedom of the press where writers, poets and others are allowed to write unsocial, immoral, seditious articles or print deviant, immoral pictures and the like."

It said Iran was proud that no such freedom existed and violators of those norms would be prosecuted.

Ayatollah Jannati said that the letter, which was sent by the writers to several international organisations outside Iran, had become the grist for anti-Iranian propaganda, especially by overseas radio programs on Iran.

"You want to write lies, to accuse people and to disgrace them," he raged.

He said the Iranian nation would not allow officials to grant such freedom.

Over the past few months the government has arrested at least two of its outspoken critics.

This week, the official Islamic Republic News Agency announced that General Ayatollah Amir-Rahimi, a retired army general who had demanded that the government step down and allow free elections, was hospitalized for "psychological problems" following interrogation by a military tribunal.

In March, Ali Akbar Saidi Sirjani, a relentless crusader for freedom of expression in Iran and among the best-known writers in the country, was arrested.

He was charged with homosexuality, gambling, smoking opium, "having connections with" Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and drinking alcohol, which is prohibited in Islamic Iran.

The charges were later expanded to include activities against the Islamic republic.

Under Iranian law, he could get the death sentence.

Ayatollah Jannati said that the death edict against Salman Rushdie, which Iran imposed in February 1989, would remain in force until for the rest of the British author's life.

The decree "will remain in force as long as that man is still alive," Ayatollah Jannati said, adding that Iran's enemies were doing everything they could to have the order revoked.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Alice Au Pays Merveilles
17:30 Un Four Tous
18:00 Le Vrai Des Merveilles
18:30 News in French
18:45 Grand Galop
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:30 Black Beauty
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Home Improvement
21:10 Murder she Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Scarlett"

PRAYER TIMES

06:37 Fair
06:57 (Sunrise) Dahu
11:20 Dhuhur
14:18 'Asr
16:43 Maghrib
18:03 'Isba

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swaffield, Tel. 810740
Anglican Church of God, Tel. 623440
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 620843

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775291

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 624192

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be sunny and warm with winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 7/21

Aqaba 14/28

Deserts 6/22

Jordan Valley 15/28

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 20, Aqaba 27 Humidity

readings: Amman 36 per cent.

Aqaba 36 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Isam Al Asmar 840204

Dr. Rizeq Abu Zinah 840205

Dr. Youssef Sammour 815648

Dr. Khaldoun Khou 816715

Nairoukh pharmacy 816192

Ferdows pharmacy 778236

Al Asma pharmacy 837025

Nairoukh pharmacy 839072

Al Salim pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637602

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'd 840000

Khalifeh pharmacy 854177

AMMAN:

Dr. Isam Al Asmar 840204

Dr. Rizeq Abu Zinah 840205

Dr. Youssef Sammour 815648

Dr. Khaldoun Khou 816715

Nairoukh pharmacy 816192

Ferdows pharmacy 778236

Crown Prince receives calls from Qatari prince, Netanyahu

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday received a telephone call and a message from Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Al Thani, brother of the Qatari leader, congratulating him on the signing and ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Sheikh Al Thani praised Prince Hassan's role in leading the negotiations, saying

that the Crown Prince has played a major effective and constructive role in guiding the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. "It is time for the Jordanian people to enjoy peace, security, safety and stability, and to dedicate their efforts to building following a long period of wars which claimed the lives of so many Jordanians," Sheikh Al Thani said.

Prince Hassan also received a telephone call from Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli Likud Party, who congratulated the Crown Prince on the peace treaty.

Mr. Netanyahu welcomed Thursday's visit by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Israel on the occasion of inaugurating the border crossing at Sheikh Hussein Bridge.

Yemeni minister ends visit after signing memorandums

Bilateral cooperation to include training

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs Mohammad Al Batni Friday left Jordan, concluding a several-day visit to the Kingdom during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and senior Jordanian officials.

The Yemeni minister's talks in Amman covered Jordanian-Yemeni cooperation in social development and vocational training, in addition to discussing the possibility of utilizing Jordan's experience in these two fields.

On Thursday, the Jordanian and Yemeni sides signed three memorandums of understanding covering social development, vocational training, special education and social security areas.

The memos were signed on the Jordanian side by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqaor and Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi, while on the Yemeni side they were signed by Mr. Batni, Director General of the Social Security Corporation, Mohammad Al Agsi and Director General of the Social Securities and Pension Corporation Ahmad Al Attab.

The first memorandum provides for cooperation in the social development field.

Under the memo, Jordan will help Yemen in such areas as rehabilitation of the handicapped, training of volunteer groups, local community development, income generating projects and special education.

Jordan will also train Yemeni cadres in organisational administrative and financial work and preparing training programmes for women in Yemen.

It will also help establish a specialised unit for income generating projects for women.

Under the memorandum, Jordan will also allocate several seats in special education institutions for handicapped persons from Yemen.

It will provide five yearly scholarships at Princess Rahma College for Social Services to five students from Yemen.

The second memorandum organises cooperation between both countries in the areas of labour, including occupational and health safety, labour, culture, and planning of labour force, through the exchange of

documents.

Under the memo both sides will also exchange expert visits.

The third memorandum defines scopes of cooperation in the area of vocational training.

Jordanian experts will conduct training courses for Yemeni leaders in both Jordan and Yemen, and will design and implement training curricula and programmes for Yemeni officials.

The two sides also signed a joint statement governing joint coordination in Arab and international conference and symposia.

Also Thursday cooperation between Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the Ministry of Social Affairs in Yemen was the subject of discussion during a meeting between Mr. Batni and In'am Mufti, advisor to Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Mr. Batni said his ministry is willing to cooperate with NHF in the areas of handicrafts and traditional industries.

Mrs. Mufti welcomed such cooperation and voiced NHF's readiness to provide technical and marketing expertise to Yemen.

Regional meeting adopts plan of action for the advancement of Arab women

Princess Basma named 'Woman of the Year' by participants

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ministerial and other official delegations from 18 Arab countries Thursday adopted revised Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the year 2005 at the conclusion of a five-day Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

During the final session also, participants named Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, under whose patronage the meeting was held, as "Woman of the Year," in appreciation of her efforts to advance the status of Arab women.

The plan of action will be forwarded at the 1995 World Conference on Women at Beijing and is intended to serve as a guideline for further developmental changes in the advancement of the status of women in society.

The plan which is partly based on international covenants relating to human rights and on some social mores and religious values prevalent in the region includes objectives, policies and measures designed to enable women to exercise their rights assume re-

sponsibility within a global platform of action which emphasises the elimination of the remaining obstacles to the full integration of women in society.

At the conference's final meeting, a statement in support of Algerian women was also adopted. The conference participants expressed support for the Algerian women who "are facing fierce attacks targeting their existence, beliefs, education and rights."

The statement condemned groups who have opted for a "language of violence" and targeted women and children to achieve their "aims of destroying Algerian women's gains."

All delegations, with the exception of the Sudan, adopted the statement.

The plan of action is a comprehensive framework for the advancement of women's rights. Among other issues, the plan touches upon the inequalities in the decision making arena; lack of sufficient mechanisms for the advancement of women; lack of awareness; the burdens of poverty; the unequal access to economic structures and policies; an unequal access to education, health care, and employment; violence against women, and the

effects of war on women.

Before the closing of the conference Gertrude Mongella, secretary general of the Fourth World Conference on Women, spoke to the press about the advancement of women in the Near East region and how far away the road to equality still lay.

"While some countries of this region have achieved high literacy for both men and women, the percentage of illiteracy among women in some countries is higher than 50 per cent — this calls for immediate action," Mrs. Mongella told the press.

"Through the initiative of the commission on the status of women the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979. This convention is a comprehensive statement on women's rights and it aims at eradication of discrimination of women in political, economic, social, cultural or any other field. One hundred and fifty-four countries of the 184 member states of the United Nations have ratified the convention. The Near East region has the lowest level of ratification, as well as the most reservations to, the convention.

"Commitment must be followed by action," she added. Mrs. Mongella made a special gesture to youth, saying that youth would inherit the decisions of today.

"I have initiated a special programme to ensure that young people have provided at all the regional preparatory conferences their aspirations and hopes — their concerns for peace and development cannot be ignored."

The importance of resource allocation and funding could not be understood, said the secretary general.

"It is crucial for governments to commit financial and human resources and strengthen institutions that implement programmes for the advancement of women. If the problems outlined in the last three U.N. conferences on women had been addressed, there would be no need for this Beijing conference."

"Women are being talked about as objects of social welfare not as participants," added Mrs. Mongella.

After "20 years of work, lobbying and networking, to have one minister is not equality, it is tokenism," Mrs. Mongella told a Jordanian journalist who ques-

tioned the need for greater rights for women. "This region is below the pass mark when it comes to women's rights," Mrs. Mongella said.

"Sometimes progress has appeared so slow that we have been ashamed to record it."

Violence against women, she said, had been one area where "there has been some change — violence — silence on this issue has been broken, violence against women has probably not increased — but now we know more about it. Many women cried and committed suicide in silence."

The meeting was organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research. Seventeen Arab League members attended the meeting and three notable absentees were Saudi Arabia (who sent their regrets), Syria and Libya.

Those who attended were Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Yemen, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Mauritania and Djibouti.

Suspects held in Amman area murders

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police are continuing investigations into two murders that took place in Amman late last month and early this month after detaining one suspect in the killings that triggered panic that a killer was on the loose targeting pharmacies.

The first murder took place around noon on Oct. 24 at the Rawand Pharmacy in the Wadi Sagra area of Amman. The pharmacist, Dina Mashini, 29, was found dead. She was shot four times at close range, two in the head, one in the abdomen and one on the right arm, police records said.

An amount believed to be around JD80 was missing from the cash register.

In the second incident, which took place at the Saad Pharmacy near the Safeway Stores in Shmeisani, Nabli

gested that there could be a "drug connection" — that the killer was seeking drugs.

However, in both cases of rare armed holdups in Jordan, no drugs were reported missing from the pharmacies.

The first murder took place around noon on Oct. 24 at the Rawand Pharmacy in the Wadi Sagra area of Amman. The pharmacist, Dina Mashini, 29, was found dead. She was shot four times at close range, two in the head, one in the abdomen and one on the right arm, police records said.

An amount believed to be around JD80 was missing from the cash register.

In the second incident, which took place at the Saad Pharmacy near the Safeway Stores in Shmeisani, Nabli

Sammour, 24, was found shot dead on Oct. 29 evening and around JD200 were missing from the premises. Mr. Sammour, an assistant pharmacist, was also shot at close range.

The connection between the two killings was immediately established when forensic tests found that the same gun was used in both attacks, according to police sources.

Police are expected to announce complete details of the cases soon after the investigations are completed and the suspect is sent to court.

The two killings were reminiscent of attacks that took place two years ago on shops and blamed on a mysterious character nicknamed "Abu Shakoush" — "the hammerman" — because hammers were used in some of the attacks.

Several people were arrested in connection with those attacks which were attributed to different persons

rather than the work of a single man.

Police, said, meanwhile, at least two suspects were being held in connection with the murder of the woman whose body was found in a sidestreet in Russeifa near the phosphate mines.

The woman, a 24-year-old student of business administration at the University of Jordan, was found dead in the morning of Nov. 7.

An autopsy established that she was strangled to death around midnight and dumped at the site around 4:00 a.m. She was not sexually assaulted.

According to the sources, the woman's father and brother are suspected in the killing. They said the woman, who was married but separated from her husband, was suspected by her family of "immoral behaviour."

She was missing for three days from her family home and the family had placed an

advertisement in local newspapers seeking help to locate her.

According to the sources, the woman telephoned her father on the fourth day from downtown Amman asking him to pick her up. The father picked up the woman and brought her home in the Nuzha neighbourhood of Amman.

No explanation was available as to what she was doing the period she remained missing, but the family apparently suspected that she was involved in "immoral behaviour" and that was the motive for the killing, according to the sources.

The same evening, as the woman was sleeping, her father and brother strangled her to death after gagging her, according to the police reconstruction of the incident.

The body was taken from Nuzha to Russeifa in the trunk of a car and dumped near the phosphate mines.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alia Art Gallery.
- Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.
- Ceramics exhibition by Mahmood Taha at Darat Al Fann.
- Exhibition of paintings by Radan Al Dweih, Jamal Abbas, and Walid Nasrallah at Alia Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Ali Hussein at Baladna Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- Exhibition of paintings by Salam Kan'an at the Balkas Art Gallery, Fuhes.
- Exhibition of art by Annie Sakka at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Ibrahim Al Abdali at Orfali Art Gallery.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Japan's emperor

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable to Japanese Emperor Akihito congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on the anniversary of his accession to the throne. King Hussein wished Emperor Akihito continued good health and happiness and the Japanese people further progress and prosperity.

Minister to head for Cairo housing conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour will leave for Cairo Saturday at the head of an official delegation to represent Jordan in the meeting of the Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction Council due to open there Sunday. The council will discuss in its two-day meetings several issues related to joint Arab action, namely unifying Arab design and construction codes and preparations for the United Nations Human Settlements Conference which will be held in Turkey in 1996. The council is also scheduled to discuss means of

assisting the construction sectors in Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen. The Jordanian delegation includes as members Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Yousef Hiyasat and HUDD's William Halasa.

Jordanian-Egyptian committee to meet

CAIRO (Petra) — The Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee will meet later this month at the level of prime ministers. Jordan's ambassador to Cairo, Nayef Al Qadi, said the Middle East has witnessed many changes since the committee last met in March in Amman, which require that the committee discuss the effects of these developments on bilateral cooperation. The committee's meeting, which will be co-chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his Egyptian counterpart, Atef Sedki, will discuss means of enhancing relations in economic, commercial, information, tourism, education, cultural, youth, energy, industrial and transport fields. In March, the committee agreed to enhance industrial integration between the two countries and to exchange agricultural research.

Technology, environmental pollution exhibit to focus on Jordan's water situation

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first exhibition on water technology and environmental pollution in Jordan, organised by the Amman-based Universal Exhibitions Corporation under the auspices of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, will be inaugurated tomorrow by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

According to the organisers, around 20 Jordanian private enterprises and representatives from the U.S., French and Italian embassies in Amman, will provide an overview of the latest developments in water transport, water treatment and water purification, as well as

water desalination, measurement technology, environment engineering, environment pollution control, and environment-related consultancy and information.

The show will be open exclusively to professionals and expert daily until Nov. 17.

According to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the show is supposed to highlight the environmental problems and the precarious water situation in Jordan and the Middle East.

Universal Exhibitions Corporation Director Khalid Moosa expressed his hope that this local exhibition would be followed by international fairs on environment in Amman.

"We contacted about 800

companies worldwide," he said, "but Jordan is still not very well known as a market for environmental technology. That is why we consider this show an important first step."

The following lectures, followed by debates and documentary films and scheduled by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCPE), will accompany the exhibition: "Water Treatment Technology," by a Swedish expert; "Re-use of Waste Water in Agriculture and Industry," by Muwaffaq Al Sakkar and Bashar Al Shreida; and "Alternative Water Resources in Jordan: Water Desalination," by Mohammad Shatnawi.

U.N. cautious on Iraqi move

(Continued from page 1)

Shen Guofang was quoted by Xinhua as saying: "Mr. Shen said China hoped Iraq would continue to cooperate with the United Nations and make positive efforts for an early realisation of peace and stability in the Gulf region on the basis of

compliance with U.N. resolutions.

The Arab League's secretary-general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, welcomed Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and said it was a first step towards mending rifts in the Arab World.

Dr. Abdul Meguid called Iraq's decision "the beginning of clearing the Arab air, mending rifts and getting Arab cooperation back."

He added: "The Arab League, as the house of Arab, is ready to cooperate to achieve this goal to direct the Arab community's energies towards dealing with the international changes that are taking place around us."

Under The Patronage of His Majesty King Hussein



The First Middle East International Education Exhibition

Amman- Jordan

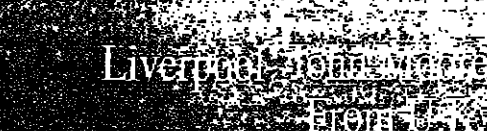
World Class Education

World Wide Reputation

Prestigious International & Jordanian Universities,
Leading Suppliers for Lab. Equipment &
Distinguished Book Publishers

from 19th-22nd November, 1994

Jointly Organised By



Rawdat Al-Ma'aref Schools & College
From Jordan

For More Information Contact The Public Relations Office
Telephone (9626) 828949/50/51/52/53 Fax (9626) 828454
P.O. Box 676 Khaldia- Jordan



Sponsored By

GoldStar

N. Korea says U.S. threats could endanger nuclear pact

TOKYO (R) — North Korea warned Friday that a historic nuclear accord with the United States would be jeopardised if Washington threatened military action against the Communist state.

Citing a statement by U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry that Washington was prepared to use military force against North Korea if it threatened the "vital national interests" of the United States, the official North Korean daily Rodong Sinmun said:

"Perry's argument may create confrontation and distrust between the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States and hamper the implementation of the agreement between them."

The statement was carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

"His argument reveals his dislike of the framework agreement between the DPRK and the United States," the daily said without making clear when Mr.

Perry made his remarks.

Last month Mr. Perry said during a visit to Seoul that the United States was not considering a reduction in its troops stationed in the South.

"The level of our military forces are determined by the conventional military threat from North Korea and we can only consider a reduction in them at such a time as we see a significant reduction in that threat," he said.

The United States and North Korea signed an agreement last month, setting aside four decades of hostility and saying they were convinced the hard-won nuclear deal shaped in Geneva would bring an era of peace to East Asia.

Under the so-called "framework accord", North Korea will cancel a nuclear energy programme suspected of having a secret weapons component and replace it with safer, advanced technologies from the West.

"It is a well known fact that the United States has long since threatened and en-

croached on the economic interests of the DPRK," the North Korean newspaper said.

"No military threat can work on the DPRK... if the conservative forces of the U.S. take the line of confrontation, the U.S. will get nothing good," it added.

About 36,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed in South Korea facing North Korea's one million-strong troops across one of the world's last cold war divides. South Korea has 655,000 armed forces of its own.

The United Nations nuclear agency said Friday it would begin fresh contacts with North Korea Monday on verifying a nuclear freeze agreed between Pyongyang and Washington.

"The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) intends shortly to inform North Korea about the measures it deems appropriate to continue to implement safeguards and to monitor the freeze... and to initiate these measures without delay," a

statement said.

"We will be making contact with North Korean representatives in Vienna on Monday," said IAEA spokesman David Kyd.

Mr. Kyd said the agency intended to send a small team of inspectors "to prepare the way for the work that needs to be accomplished."

Meanwhile, North Korea Friday officially turned down South Korea's offer for expanded economic cooperation, but the South took the rebuff in stride, saying it would keep options open for inter-Korean exchanges.

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherlands in Pyongyang denounced in vitriolic terms the offer by President Kim Young-Sam as a ruse, and demanded an apology from Mr. Kim for his "confrontational policy."

The committee accused Mr. Kim Young-Sam of unilaterally freezing an inter-Korean dialogue due to a row over the North's so-called "nuclear issue."



People at a market here check newspapers to read about the record landslide victory of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga in Sri Lanka's presidential elections. Mrs. Kumaratunga won with an historic margin (AFP photo)

Sri Lanka mother-daughter combination in top political jobs to set world first

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka is set to get the world's first mother and daughter team for prime minister and president following the victory of Chandrika Kumaratunga in presidential elections, officials said here Friday.

The cabinet has agreed to back President-Elect Kumaratunga's mother, Sirima Bandaranaike, 78, as the new premier, an official close to the family said.

The decision was taken following a signature campaign led by two ministers urging Mrs. Kumaratunga, who assumed office as the island nation's fourth head of state Saturday, to name her mother as figurehead premier, the officials said.

"Cabinet feels that Mrs. B (as Sirima Bandaranaike is affectionately known) deserves to be the prime minister considering her contribution to the party," an official said.

Political observers here believe that the world may witness a historic occasion Sunday when Mrs. Bandaranaike would be sworn in as prime minister before her daughter, who won a landslide victory at Wednesday's presidential poll.

Mrs. Bandaranaike became the world's first elected

woman premier in 1960 when she led the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) to victory following the assassination of her prime minister husband, Solomon Bandaranaike, in 1959.

She lost the 1965 election but staged a comeback five years later and ruled the country till 1977. When Mrs. Kumaratunga won the Aug. 16 parliamentary vote to become premier, she made her mother a senior minister.

When Mrs. Bandaranaike, a simple housewife, was brought to the political limelight in 1959, she was a complete novice.

but despite her lack of experience, she played a key role in defusing tension between India and China after the brief border war between those two nations in 1962.

The Bandaranaiques had established close ties with the Congress (I) Party and the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty in India, which helped her sort out long-drawn disputes with neighbouring India with considerable ease.

Mrs. Kumaratunga once told an interviewer that she was uncomfortable with high office but politics was "like a family business" for her.

But the family is plagued by squabbling between Mrs.

Kumaratunga and her brother Anura, who defected to the opposition United National Party (UNP) last year after losing a succession battle to his sister.

He told reporters shortly after defecting that their mother was "not very happy" about the move "but it will not affect her health. She is a tough nut. Tough as (late Indian Premier) Mrs. (Indira) Gandhi."

"We are a very civilised family unlike the Bhuttos," he told reporters, referring to feuding in the family of Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto.

Like her mother, daughter Chandrika also became a political widow when her film-star-turned-politician husband was gunned down before her and their two children in February 1988.

Analysts believe that making Mrs. Bandaranaike prime minister would be an interim arrangement because Mrs. Kumaratunga has pledged to scrap the presidency and revert to a parliamentary democracy.

In such an event, the two women will switch seats, making Mrs. Bandaranaike titular president and helping her realise her life's ambition of becoming head of state "at least for one day."

Over 43 million U.S. military documents go public

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton signed an order to release 43 million pages of classified war records in keeping with his promise of less government secrecy. "A wealth of insight into some of the most important military events of our recent history... will be of great value to military historians, researchers, veterans and ordinary citizens," Mr. Clinton said. Within 30 days, almost all of the documents from World War II held in the National Archives will be declassified, along with 23 million pages on the Vietnam War and Naval and Air Force operations. Another 325 million pages of documents in the National Archives and hundreds of millions held by federal agencies will also be reviewed for declassification.

Swiss to vote on legalisation of heroin

BERNE (R) — A coalition of Swiss pressure groups said Wednesday it had collected enough signatures to force a national referendum on the legalisation of the use of heroin and other hard drugs in Switzerland. The working group "drogenlegalisierung" (Droleg), a coalition of legal, social, medical and youth groups, said the initiative called for the purchase, possession, consumption and cultivation of narcotics to be decriminalised. It also demands the introduction of a programme of state-controlled drug distribution. "Droleg does not expect to solve the drug problem with its initiative but is convinced there is no other way to normalise and reduce the drug problem to acceptable proportions than with its proposed solution in the initiative," it said. Although the use and possession of hard drugs is illegal in Switzerland, authorities in a number of cities have tolerated open drug markets, where dealers and users meet to buy and sell drugs, for a number of years. In Switzerland's largest open drug scene in Zurich, over 1,000 addicts and dealers gather daily at an abandoned railway siding to deal in heroin, cocaine and methadone and to shoot up into needle-scarred arms, legs and necks. However, responding to public pressure and an upsurge of drug-related violence this summer, Zurich authorities have said they plan to clear the city's drug scene.

American fined for calling Kenyans niggers

NAIROBI (AFP) — A magistrate's here has fined a white American engineer \$150 for calling Kenyan immigration officials "stupid niggers," local newspapers reported Friday. Spoon Steven Graig was charged with calling immigration officials at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Airport "stupid niggers" when he arrived from London Wednesday. "Those who are blue-blooded and have no wish to associate with Kenyans are free to stay away," Magistrate Uniter Kidullah told Graig Thursday. Mr. Graig, 28, said he "loved" Kenya and was sorry for having lost his temper after travelling. He said he used the word negro and not nigger.

Kenya sack Leakey from museums post

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan authorities have sacked renowned conservationist Richard Leakey as chairman of the board of governors of the National Museums, the official Kenya Gazette said Friday. No reasons were given. Mr. Leakey, the son of anthropologists Louis and Mary Leakey, lost both legs when his light plane crashed last year. He resigned as the director of the Kenya Wildlife Service in March because of pressure from critics inside the government who accused him of racism and corruption. He was also at odds with President Daniel Arap Moi on how Kenya's conservation programme should be financed. Mr. Leakey is now reported to have been hired by the Ugandan government as a consultant on merging that country's National Parks and Game Department. Mr. Leakey's parents discovered a 1.75-million-year-old skull in Tanzania, bolstering theories that mankind originated in East Africa.

Gambian junta foils coup bid

BANJUL (AFP) — Gambia's military junta has foiled an attempt to topple it at the cost of several lives, Vice President Sana Sabally said Friday, in a first sign of divisions in the small West African nation's army.

Mr. Sabally told state radio that several soldiers were killed in the coup bid, which was led by high-ranking army officers, and said the ruling Armed Forces Provisional Council was in control.

The announcement followed heavy gunfire heard throughout the night from the barracks in the Bakau residential district, 14 kilometres (nine miles) from the centre of Banjul.

Lieutenant Yaya Jammeh's junta would give no details of which officers in the Gambian army, about 1,000 strong, mounted the coup bid

nor of casualties in the fighting.

Residents of Banjul went to work as normal Friday morning and the shops opened. Witnesses said there were no signs of trouble around the presidential residence, but soldiers were stopping vehicles to carry out identity checks.

Lt. Jammeh, 29, and three other officers all aged under 30 seized power on July 22 in a bloodless coup that toppled elected President Sir Dawda Jawara, who had been in power since before full independence from Britain in 1965.

Last month, Lt. Jammeh announced that the military would stay in power until elections are organised in December 1998 to restore civilian rule. He justified the decision by saying that his

regime would fight corruption and improve the living standards of the country's poor majority.

Hours before the coup attempt took place, Mr. Sabally made a public appeal to Gambians to rally round the Provisional Council's "programme", in what diplomats saw as a bid to stem dissent.

The call for support was a first indication of disagreement among the authorities on the timetable for change, one analyst said.

The announcement of the anti-corruption drive was welcomed by many Gambians, but the army's decision to hold on to power for more than three years led Britain, the United States, the European Union and Japan to suspend military and economic aid.

Pentagon: Arms sales drop

WASHINGTON (R) — Foreign military sales of U.S. weapons dropped dramatically to \$12.9 billion in fiscal year 1994 from \$35.2 billion in the previous year, the Defence Department said.

And in a dark forecast for big U.S. aerospace firms, department officials also predicted that those foreign arms sales will continue to drop over the next few years.

The Defence Security Assistance Agency said the reason for the steep plunge in fiscal 1994, which ended on Sept. 30, was that U.S. arms sales were unusually high to Middle East countries in fiscal 1993 following the 1991 Gulf war.

But agency officials also said they expected the downward trend in foreign sales agreements to continue in the near term.

"They are estimating that sales will average between \$9 billion and \$10.5 billion per year through fiscal year 1997," the Pentagon said in a statement.

That prediction not good for big U.S. aerospace firms such as Lockheed Corp. and McDonnell Douglas Corp. and other defence companies, who are looking toward more foreign sales as the U.S. defence budget shrinks.

Sinn Fein condemns N.Ireland killing

BELFAST (R) — Sinn Fein, standing on the threshold of its first official talks with the British government, tried Friday to limit the damage caused by a killing blamed on its guerrilla supporters in the IRA.

Pat Doherty, vice-president of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, said Thursday's killing during a robbery of a post office was "wrong and should not have happened."

Mr. Doherty said he was sure the killing, blamed by police on suspected members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), had not been carried out by the group and was convinced the guerrillas were sticking to their Sept. 1 ceasefire.

"Any military operation of any nature should not be carried out during this ceasefire. That is the commitment

that the IRA has given and I am convinced that is the commitment they are prepared to stand over."

The killing in Newry, 60 kilometres south of Belfast, was the first since the IRA began a ceasefire in its 25-year war to end British rule of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland's Royal Ulster Constabulary said it had arrested two men and was searching for a third.

that the IRA has given and I am convinced that is the commitment they are prepared to stand over."

The killing in Newry, 60 kilometres south of Belfast, was the first since the IRA began a ceasefire in its 25-year war to end British rule of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland's Royal Ulster Constabulary said it had arrested two men and was searching for a third.

Republicans could keep Clinton guessing next 2 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — You can almost imagine them spinning off page one, these headlines from President Bill Clinton's worst nightmare: "Chairman d'Amato reopens Whitewater inquiry," or "1994 crime bill gutted," or "tax cut face Clinton veto."

The mood at the White House is surprisingly stoic following the Republican takeover of Congress, but some aides can't help but read the worst into the whipping at times.

"It sends chills," one adviser said Thursday. "Cold chills."

Mr. Clinton, stunned by Tuesday's midterm elections, promised to press forward with his economic programme and move toward the political centre in the remaining two years of his term. He accepted some blame for Tuesday's defeat and extended an open hand to Republicans.

But he could not answer the most unsettling question: Just what does the Republican Party have in store for him?

"A lot of us haven't had a lot of sleep and we're going to need a few days to digest all these results," Mr. Clinton said Wednesday. "I think we have to first of all... take a little nap. Take a little sleep, take a little rest."

He has plenty to keep him awake at night.

One thing sure to make him restless: The thought of Sen. Alfonse D'Amato chairing the Senate Banking Committee and overseeing the Whitewater hearings. As the banking minority member of the panel last summer, the New York Republican led the assault on Mr. Clinton's failed Arkansas business dealings.

Sen. D'Amato said Thursday that hearings would resume early next year and he

would not hesitate to use his subpoena power against uncooperative witnesses. But, he said, "this will not be a witch hunt."

Privately, Clinton aides fear Sen. D'Amato will do his best to keep the controversy alive through the 1996 elections. And the scrutiny may not stop with Whitewater.

House Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich, who called Mr. Clinton an enemy of normal people during the midterm campaign, also talked ominously about Republican subpoena power in a new era on Capitol Hill.

Since the election, Republicans have suggested a congressional inquiry into outgoing Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy's ties to the Arkansas chicken industry.

In other worst-case scenarios:

— Republicans keep their promise and pass a tax cut out don't propose a way to pay for it. Mr. Clinton would face two bad options: Veto a politically popular bill or approve it at the expense of his deficit-reduction plans.

— The 1994 crime bill is reopened, allowing Republicans to once again attack prevention programmes as pork-barrel spending. A problem with this scenario, the White House hopes, is that many communities have already received money from the crime bill and will fight any cuts.

— Sen. Jesse Helms from North Carolina, incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, uses his new power to slash foreign aid, perhaps gutting the agency for international development.

— Judicial and executive branch appointments, which Mr. Clinton made nearly unfettered in the Democratic Congress, are cleared each and every time by Senate

Republicans.

— Health care reform, ripped apart by conservative Democrats and Republicans this year, gets nothing more than symbolic attention in the next two years.

"You could spin a worst-case, middle-case and best-case scenario, but we have no idea how they intend to handle themselves now that they have a majority in both houses," said Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes.

"Hopefully, they will act responsibly."

Stunned by this political nightmare, Mr. Clinton is struggling to convince voters he is the true champion of what they saw in the GOP Tuesday: Small government, political reform and community approach to his domestic policy, from health care to crime and welfare.

One result: Two days after the election the Justice Department dramatically reversed itself Thursday and sided with conservative groups on a child pornography case.

"We're going to look at everything," adviser George Stephanopoulos said. "It's a very different world." A world, according to today's headlines, with Republicans in charge.

Meanwhile overhauling income taxes, ending a legislative probe of the powerful tobacco industry, slashing foreign aid — Republicans are busy setting their goals for a new, more conservative U.S. Congress.

Republican lawmakers likely to chair committees in the Congress that convenes in January say their landslide was a popular call to rein in a government that has become too big, too costly and too unresponsive, and for the first time in 40 years, their control of both houses will

give them a huge advantage in moving legislation that does exactly that.

"Clearly, the public doesn't want so much government," Sen. Pete Domenici, a Republican from New Mexico, returning to his old job as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said in an interview Thursday. "We have to go out and get rid of some of government."

Without offering specifics, Sen. Domenici said his committee would look for programmes "that aren't really working to see what we can get rid of." He also said it would move quickly to strengthen the president's ability to erase individual items in spending bills and to endorse a constitutional amendment that would require a balanced budget.

Behind the scenes, the Republican Senate staff is considering a plan that would trim federal spending by \$500 billion to \$700 billion through the year 2002, said one Republican aide who spoke on condition of anonymity. The plan is aimed at achieving a balanced budget by then and paying for \$100 billion worth of tax cuts for the middle class, the aide said.

Sen. Domenici said he would seek support for a plan he has advanced with Sen. Sam Nunn, a Democrat from Georgia, dramatically reshaping the income tax. People would deduct their savings and investments from their incomes and pay tax only on the difference, which he said would encourage Americans to save money.

The man who will probably chair the House Ways and Means Committee said Thursday that one of his long-range goals is to eliminate the income tax altogether, replacing it with perhaps a national sales tax.



New U.S. citizens wave flags after they took the oath at the Convention Centre in Los Angeles. Over 7,000 immigrants became citizens in two separate ceremonies, two days after Californians passed Proposition 187 denying public services to illegal immigrants (AFP photo)

U.S. courts seen holding up California anti-immigrant measure for years

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies) — Opponents of California's controversial anti-immigration measure said Thursday that at least some of its provisions could be held up in the courts for years.

A flurry of lawsuits was filed against the so-called "save our state" measure Wednesday, one day after California voters passed it by a wide margin, sending a clear message that they want a crackdown on illegal immigration.

The measure, known as Proposition 187, would cut off education, welfare and non-emergency health care to California's estimated 1.7 million illegal immigrants.

It also requires doctors and teachers to report people they suspect of being illegal immigrants to the immigration authorities.

Mark Silverman, an immigration lawyer involved in the legal battle against Proposition 187, said that the measure will lead to years of litigation.

Some provisions, such as one ordering illegal immigrant children to be kicked out

of school, will be held up in the courts because it is unconstitutional, he said.

The U.S. Supreme Court has previously ruled that public schools cannot exclude illegal immigrants.

Mr. Silverman, an attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Centre in San Francisco, said he was confident the courts will bar implementation of the educational provisions until the case is decided by either the California Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court, which could take years.

Civil rights groups and community groups are attacking the measure on many fronts, arguing that it violates the U.S. constitution or federal law.

Two courts moved quickly to postpone implementation of the measure Wednesday.

A state judge in San Francisco imposed a temporary restraining order barring the state from throwing illegal immigrant children out of schools and a federal judge in Los Angeles said no part of the measure may be enforced until he holds another hearing next week.

Meanwhile for 7,000 immigrants sworn in as citizens during a ceremony Thursday, joy was tempered by sadness over the passage of California's Proposition 187.

"I'm feeling bad because it's not right," said 28-year-old Carlos Urrutia, who fled civil war in El Salvador six years ago and took his place in the crowd to recite the citizenship oath before a federal judge.

Mr. Urrutia said he had entered the United States legally but worries about a pregnant relative who doesn't have permission. And he worries about illegals he has never met.

"It's harder living in this country without papers," Mr. Urrutia said.

Francisco Ortiz, 42, another in the group at the Los Angeles Convention Centre, was born in Mexico and sees hope in this country despite overwhelming support for Proposition 187.

"That's why I became a citizen," Mr. Ortiz said. "There are laws we don't agree with, but we're still Americans." He too, said he had entered the country legally.

Over 43 million U.S. military documents go public

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton has ordered the release of 43 million pages of classified military documents in a move to increase transparency in the nation's defense history.

A wealth of information about the most recent military events in the Persian Gulf, the Balkans, and other areas will be made available to the public, Clinton said. The documents, which include battle plans, intelligence reports, and other military records, will be released over the next several months.

The National Archives and Records Administration is currently reviewing the documents to ensure that they do not contain information that could harm national security. Clinton said that the release of the documents is a "historic step" in the process of declassifying military records.



Bosnian Serb soldiers tie up Muslim prisoners of war near the front line, around the small village of Dubovac, some 5 kilometres south of the western Bosnian town of Bihać. (AFP photo)

Bosnian Serbs make new gains; leader given sweeping powers

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnian Serbs gave near-dictatorial powers to their hawkish leader Friday in the expectation he can reverse their recent battlefield losses.

Reports of fierce fighting in Bihać in the north seemed to bear out Serb determination to strike back hard on the battlefield.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government may soon get relief from the U.N. arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia. Washington announced Thursday that it plans to stop enforcing the ban against the outgunned government next week.

Washington's action probably won't have much immediate impact on the battlefield, but it could cause a rift with Britain and France, which are afraid it would endanger their peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, and Russia, which has strong ethnic ties to the Serbs. Russian lawmakers Friday denounced the decision.

The new fighting in the Bihać pocket coincided with the decision by the Bosnian Serb assembly to let their leader, Radovan Karadzic, act alone in waging the war, instead of convening the assembly on important decisions.

The assembly also gave Mr. Karadzic the power to declare martial law, which would give him unchecked right, for instance, to imprison draft evaders or confiscate their property.

Mr. Karadzic said special

military committees will immediately be formed in each district of Serb-held territory to govern along with civilian officials. Serbs held 70 per cent of Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serb leader had pushed for more power in recent weeks as government forces, sometimes supported by Bosnian Croat militias, captured hundreds of miles of Serb-held territory.

Mr. Karadzic had warned that Bosnian Serbs would destroy government army formations around Bihać. Serb military officials said government soldiers were on the run in the Bihać pocket, sandwiched between Bosnian Serb units moving over the Una River from the south and rebel Serb forces in neighbouring Croatia to the north.

Bosnian Radio reported fierce fighting in the region, saying more than 2,000 explosions rocked the town of Bihać.

"They have been pulverising Bihać and its outskirts," said the report late Thursday. It said Serb shelling of the town of Cazin, Buzim, Velika Kladusa and Bosanska Krupa had killed and wounded an unspecified number of civilians.

The Serbs also were launching infantry attacks on almost all sections of the Bihać front, the broadcast said.

A U.N. official in Zagreb, Croatia, described the situation in the region as "extremely unstable" and the

level of shelling as "extremely high." Speaking on condition of anonymity, he reported increased infantry fighting and said Serb claims their troops have advanced north over Una appeared true.

Heavy shelling south of Bihać by Bosnian and Croatian Serbs on Thursday killed at least two civilians, wounded another 10 and damaged more than 100 buildings, said U.N. spokesman Major Koos Sol in Sarajevo.

He and others said Croatian Serb and rebel Muslim forces were building up on the Croatian border near the fighting, but could not confirm whether they had crossed over and were actively involved.

The loss of the Bihać pocket would be devastating for the government army, which overtook most of the region in August. Its fall would give the Serbs another piece of territory to connect rebel Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia with Serbia proper.

Government troops, meanwhile, claimed further gains Thursday, saying they moved closer to Serb-held Teslic and Doboj in northern Bosnia, there was no confirmation from Bosnian Serb military sources.

Bosnian Serbs launched the war in April 1992, after Muslims and Croats voted to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, and Mr. Karadzic has rejected international pressure to make peace.

The U.N. command,

meanwhile, accused the Muslim-led government of firing on its own territory in the capital, Sarajevo, apparently to provoke a NATO air strike against the Bosnian Serbs.

The Bosnian Serbs, who have enjoyed weapons superiority, are now believed to be running short of fuel. They are also outnumbered more than 2-to-1 by combined government-Croat forces and morale is said to be low after they lost ground in a war they thought they had already won.

Serbia, the largest republic in Yugoslavia, cut off supplies to the Bosnian Serbs in August to pressure them to accept an international peace plan they have repeatedly rejected.

Under the plan, Serbs would be forced to relinquish about one-third of the more than 70 per cent of the republic they hold.

American officials maintain a 1991 U.N. arms embargo prohibiting sales to all sides in the Balkan conflict has placed the Muslims at a disadvantage.

A U.S.-sponsored resolution would be exempt Bosnia's government from the embargo within six months if the Bosnian Serbs don't sign the peace treaty.

NATO is in charge of enforcing the arms embargo. Officials at the alliance's Brussels headquarters said only two of the 18 enforcement ships are American, and that weapons tend to come by land and air.

Swiss to vote on legalisation of heroin

BERNE (AP) — Swiss voters will decide Wednesday whether to legalise heroin in a referendum that has divided the country.

The referendum, which is being held on the same day as a national election, is a result of a long-running debate about the country's drug policy. Supporters of legalisation argue that it would reduce the harm caused by the illegal drug trade and allow for better control of the market.

Opponents argue that legalisation would encourage more people to use drugs and lead to an increase in crime. The referendum is expected to be a close one, with the outcome likely to depend on the results of the national election.

Swedish EU referendum is too close to call

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's 6.5 million voters go to the polls Sunday to decide whether to join the European Union, with latest opinion polls showing a nail-bitingly close race between supporters and opponents.

Two polls published Friday showed around 60 per cent of voters will reject membership or are still undecided.

One poll, in the Dagens Nyheter daily, showed supporters and opponents tied at 40 per cent and the undecided at a remarkably high 20 per cent just 48 hours before voting begins.

Another poll, by the SIFO institute published in the Göteborg-Posten daily, gave supporters 42 per cent of the vote and opponents 39 per cent.

Sweden's vote will be crucial to a similar referendum due to be held in neighbouring Norway on Nov. 28, where opposition has been strongest.

However two opinion polls published in Oslo Friday showed for the first time since April that Norwegians could vote for membership if Sweden does.

One poll gave supporters a five-percentage point lead over opponents if Sweden votes "yes" while another showed the two camps with equal support.

Swedish Finance Minister Goran Persson issued a clear warning to Sweden Friday that severe spending cuts would be necessary if the country decided to stay outside the European Union.

Mr. Persson told Reuters in the Arctic town of Lulea that he could not raise taxes any more. "If we are forced to do more, we will have to do it through spending cuts," he said.

Sweden's pro-European political and business establishment, slow to realise anti-EU supporters had grabbed the initiative, has launched a public offensive to try to secure the 20 per cent of voters who have still to make up their minds.

"How can half of the Swedish electorate be prepared to vote against membership? The respected liberal Dagens Nyheter daily wrote in an editorial Friday.

The pro-EU campaign has failed to impress average Swedes outside the main cities, who fear the imposition of rule from Brussels will slash into Sweden's high standard of living and comprehensive welfare state.

Financial markets, volatile ahead of the referendum, are expected to swing violently in Sweden when they reopen Monday morning, whatever the outcome.

In case of a yes vote, analysts predict a five per cent jump in the share market and a sharp fall in interest rates, while the crown should strengthen appreciably.

If Sweden votes no, the market reaction is expected to be even more violent, with an up to 10 per cent fall in the crown and shares predicted.

India claims triumph over Pakistan

NEW DELHI (R) — India Friday claimed a diplomatic victory over Pakistan after Islamabad failed to win support for a U.N. resolution on Kashmir that New Delhi said violated its sovereignty.

A group of countries led by Pakistan withdrew the resolution, which urged the United Nations to help settle the bitter 47-year dispute over the Himalayan region, after it failed to rally adequate backing, diplomats said.

"India's made a point... that you cannot trifle with India," Junior Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid said in an interview to be broadcast on state television Friday evening.

"Major diplomatic victory for India," was the headline on a front-page article in the Times of India.

The general secretary of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, Krishan Lal Sharma, said Pakistan had suffered a "second diplomatic defeat."

In March, Pakistan withdrew a U.N. resolution condemning India for alleged human-rights abuses in Kashmir.

The latest resolution, drafted by members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), noted increased tensions in the north Indian state of Jammu and

Kashmir. In a section especially galling to India, it invited U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali "to exert every possible effort to facilitate the search for lasting peace in South Asia."

Kashmir has been the cause of two of the three wars India and Pakistan have fought since 1947.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of arming Kashmiri militants who launched a revolt against Indian rule in 1990. More than 17,000 people have died since then. Islamabad says it only provides political and diplomatic support.

India has rejected Pakistan's longstanding efforts to bring global pressure to bear on what New Delhi considers a bilateral dispute.

U.N. diplomats in New York said that while there was agreement on the substance of the resolution, countries disagreed over procedure. The OIC was expected to take up the Kashmir issue at a summit meeting in Morocco next month.

But Indian officials said the draft's demise strengthened New Delhi's hand as it seeks to settle the dispute in bilateral talks with Islamabad and prepares for elections in the region, the only Muslim-majority state in mostly Hindu India.

"You cannot just simply say that because Kashmir is full of Muslims, therefore we should simply carve it out," Mr. Khurshid said, adding that Kashmir "will never part company with India."

The Times of India said: "There appears to be a better appreciation worldwide of India's complaint that a major cause of the Kashmir problem is Pakistan-inspired terrorism."

The Foreign Ministry refused to gloat, issuing a statement saying New Delhi remained eager "to build friendly and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan."

"We do not want to crow," a senior diplomat said. Newspapers said Pakistan's opposition might capitalise on the government's failure to win support for the resolution, to score political points against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

In bitter remarks, the vice-chairman of Pakistan's General Assembly delegation, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, accused the Foreign Office of failing to back Kashmiri separatists.

United News of India said the resolution's failure "will fuel the current liberation movement being led by (former prime minister) Nawaz Sharif to remove Ms. Bhutto's government."

Karachi sees new eruption of violence

KARACHI (AP) — The killing of Karachi politician Mansoor Ahmad Khan with his family has thrown a new unwanted spotlight on the growing anarchy in Pakistan's biggest city.

Two thousand troops in battle gear patrolled the streets after unidentified gunmen opened fire on Mr. Mansoor's car Thursday night — giving Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto a new reminder of the mountain she faces turning one of the most dangerous cities in the world into Pakistan's economic capital.

The Mohajir community leader was killed with his wife, a baby boy and Mr. Mansoor's sister-in-law. His father-in-law was critically injured.

As the news of the attack spread, new incidents erupted leaving at least four others dead. Heavy gunfire rang around the city of 10 million people late into the night. Dozens were brought to city hospitals with gunshot injuries, officials said.

"Mobile patrols have been increased and temporary checkpoints established in all

troubled spots," said an official who told of the 2,000 troops sent on the streets. "The hard core of MQM Haqiqi is likely to respond to these killings and we can expect an escalation of target killings in coming days," he added.

Mr. Mansoor was deputy secretary general of a splinter group of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) known as MQM Haqiqi. The MQM represents the Urdu-speaking migrants who came to Pakistan from India after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947.

But the split of the MQM into rival factions in 1992 typifies Karachi's problem with unfettered violence. Dozens have been killed in tit-for-tat attacks between MQM groups in recent months.

MQM chairman, Azeem Ahmad Tanq, was shot dead in May last year. His killers have still not been arrested.

The city has also been hit by rivalry between Sunnis and Shi'ite extremists and the Karachi underworld inflicts its own kind of terror.

The climate is such that Karachi is now one of the most dangerous cities in the world, according to many observers. Diplomats and foreign businessmen only go out with an armed escort.

"If you don't live here you can't realise how bad it is," said a stockbroker quoted by The Nation newspaper.

"The city is neurotic. You drive with a locked door for fear of kidnapping. You are constantly looking in the rear view mirror. You worry about your kids every moment they are at school."

The business district around the main hotels is relatively safe. But several international organisations have recommended to staff that they do not stay in Karachi any longer than necessary.

The prime minister wants to make Karachi an international finance city. But she knows it will be a major challenge, analysts said.

FOR RENT

To Embassies , International , National Organizations & Universities.

Newly built , fully serviced & furnished unique residential building featuring outstanding architectural design & panoramic view.

Location :

AL RASHEED Housing Area - near the Jordan University.

Brief on the building

28 furnished apartments , could be rented furnished or un-furnished , partly or completely.

Services available

- Reception area + 3 spacious open areas could be used as a library , Gym hall , restaurant , etc. • 2 lifts • Central Antenna & Video. • Closed Circuit TV.
- Satellite Dish (ART, ARABSAT) • Fire & Smoking Alarm systems.
- Central Heating. • Water Reservoir. • Green areas and Children play court.
- Public bathrooms in the reception area. • Laundry room.
- Parking. • Storage area.

For More Information

Tel: 863981 / 819812

Daily From 9 - 1 p.m. / 5 - 7 p.m.

Fax: 863982

P.O.Box: 337 UM-Summaq Amman / Jordan

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Who will pick the tab?

IT IS unconscionable that the Ministry of Health did not see fit to comment on the recent findings by a University of Jordan student researcher that insecticide and pesticide residues in Jordanian mothers' milk exceed the internationally acceptable standard. The results of the study also confirm that DDT, a long-term pesticide that adversely affects health, has been found in great amounts in mothers' milk and blood plasma. Jordanians have long suspected that the uncontrolled use of pesticides and insecticides in the country has taken untold toll on Jordanian life. With cancer in the Kingdom increasing at a rate faster than in many other countries, more and more evidence is pointing to the abuse of chemicals containing carcinogenic elements as the main culprit. Yet, neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture had much to say about the repeated accusations that they are unduly keeping their eyes shut in the face of mounting evidence that farmers are not being supervised when they dispense with their chemicals to fight off pests or insects.

The people deserve a speedy and well-documented response from the concerned governmental agencies and an effective remedy. We should stop gambling with peoples' lives by staying silent in the face of great dangers to their health. Protecting the health standards in the country involves a huge economic cost that would justify a more candid approach to such health problems and a more strict application of international health standards. For starters, we need a more forthright report on cancer in the country and its link to increased pollution and pollutants of all kinds. People are also entitled to know what the concerned ministries intend to do to curb the unlawful use of pesticides and insecticides. At the same time, the government is called upon to make officials accountable for their negligence. Otherwise the country might find itself on the verge of a health catastrophe.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily lauded Russia's efforts to end the embargo on Iraq and help defuse tension in the Gulf by arranging for Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. "We view the success of the Russian initiative as a very precious achievement that would open the way for solidarity among the Arab states and for enhancing the security and stability in the whole region," said the paper. "The Russian initiative is in line with the international legitimacy and primarily serves the Arab Nations' interests because an end to tension in the Gulf would open the door for a prosperous future for Iraq and Kuwait and the rest of the Arab World," noted the daily. Jordan, it added, has a real interest in peace and security in the east as well as peace in the west so that we can live in an oasis marked by stability and security creating the right atmosphere for prosperity. The paper urged the United States and the Western nations to help rather than impede the Russian initiative and end the embargo on Iraq as a contribution to the march of peace in the region.

Nazih Qusous, a columnist for Sawt Al Shaab daily criticised a government decision taken last month banning the importation of used car tyres, noting that thousands of Jordanian car owners had been in the practice of buying these tyres because they cannot afford to purchase new ones. Noting that the standard of living for tens of thousands of Jordanian families has deteriorated noticeably over the past years and that many more thousands continue to live under the poverty line, the writer said that many of the car owners came from limited income groups and were in no position to buy new tyres. He said for years these groups had been in the habit of purchasing used tyres which proved to be reliable and their prices reasonable. "The government's decision to ban the importation of the used tyres is bound to benefit the wealthy agents who import the new tyres but is bound to make the poor poorer and the rich richer," said the writer. The government decision would tempt the importers of the new tyres to raise the prices even more. The writer urged the government to reconsider the ban and rescind its decision.

Jordanian perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Treaty puts Jordan in better position to further peace

THE SOLEMN ceremony that took place on the shores of Lake Tiberias on Thursday when His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty marked the sealing of a historic step the Kingdom took. Peace with Israel has now been formally imbedded in the history of not only Jordan but of the region as a whole.

The way ahead for Jordan and Israel is clear: They have to nurture the peace they have made through dedicated efforts and, more importantly, they have to ensure that the peoples of the two countries feel the real benefits of peace in terms of their daily life. Hopefully, this would be achieved with concerted efforts, both internally and externally, and with help from our friends around the world to whom peace in the Middle East not only means an end to a disturbing preoccupation but also the freedom to exercise their economic options in a market of tens of millions of people.

Now that the Jordanian-Israeli track has been sealed with a peace treaty, the Kingdom is also free to exercise its options to help the other tracks of the peace process. In this context, the telephone call that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat made to King Hussein Wednesday evening, a few hours before the Monarch was to pay his first visit to Israel for Thursday's ceremony in Tiberias, was very telling. The call could signal a new turn in relations between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho.

No doubt Mr. Arafat's call to the King was prompted by several reasons, foremost among them was the commitment that the Kingdom made when it said that the custodianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem would be handed over to the Palestinians once they secured their political and territorial rights from Israel in line with the Israel-PLO declaration of principles. Another factor was indeed Mr. Rabin's promise to Mr. Arafat on Tuesday that Israel was willing to speed up the process of expanding Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank.

The Jordanian and Israeli pledges should go a long way in soothing PNA fears that Jordan and Israel were

conspiring to deprive the Palestinians of their rights, and that Israel was slowly setting the ground for handing over the West Bank to Jordan in a platter while limiting the PNA to Gaza and Jericho.

King Hussein's comments to Israeli reporters after a round of talks with Mr. Rabin at Beit Gibril in Tiberias on Thursday that Jordan wants Mr. Arafat to succeed in his quest to regain Palestinian rights and that it was up to the PNA chairman to believe or disbelieve Jordan were also very telling. His diplomatic refusal not to set a date for a visit to Jerusalem was also very revealing in that it also appeared to signal a position that Jordan was not seeking to worsen relations with the PNA by making such a visit before the Jordanian-Palestinian atmosphere is cleared of suspicions.

Hopefully, the Palestinian leadership would soon come to appreciate the sincerity with which Jordan is moving ahead, with a clear vision to help the Palestinian-Israeli track, and open a new chapter in political relations with the Kingdom.

On the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, whether Damascus and Beirut appreciate it or not, Jordan is now in a better position to help. Within themselves, whether they acknowledge it in public or not, they know it very well that if anyone should be blamed for lack of coordination then they should be the one at whom the finger should be pointed. It was not Jordan which steadfastly turned down repeated efforts to convene regular ministerial level meetings to coordinate positions in between the various rounds of peace talks with Israel and it was not Jordan which implicitly accused Syria and Lebanon of "convinced" with the PLO in its secret negotiations with Israel in Oslo that led to the interim autonomy accord. Jordan was indeed the target of such implicit accusations from Damascus and Beirut. And it was not Jordan which tried to dominate the Arab position in negotiations with Israel and sought to dictate self-serving terms to its Arab partners on how to go about negotiating with Israel.

Obviously, the Syrian and Lebanese criticism of Jordan for making peace with Israel and their assertion that the

Jordanian move undermined the Arab position do not hold much water. It has been made abundantly clear that both Syria and Lebanon could and would eventually make peace with Israel and it was only differences over the methodology that were holding up progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel. It is also clear at this point in time, as it was for several months indeed, that Syria and, by extension, Lebanon are only one step away from making peace with Israel. Jordan holding itself back would not have affected progress on those tracks. If anything, Jordan would have found itself tagging along if it had waited any longer for Syria and Israel to say the magic words — agreement to make peace.

So, let us see very clear through the veil of political fog that our Arab partners have pulled down on their approaches to peace with Israel. It is up to them to lift that veil and move ahead with their national priorities to make peace and seek Jordanian help if they feel like doing so.

Now that the peace treaty has established a direct line of political approach between Jordan and Israel, and Jordanian advice to Israel is likely to be accepted and acted upon, now that Jordan have lived up to the commitment it undertook at the outset of the international conference that launched the Middle East peace process in Madrid three years ago, the Kingdom's words carry a lot of weight with the international community.

Definitely, Damascus and Beirut know very well that Jordan would not move in any direction that would compromise the Syrian and Lebanese demands from Israel. King Hussein has made it clear time and again that he was not wavering an inch from his position that any peace settlement between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel should be based on Syrian and Lebanese rights in full.

There is no ambiguity in the Jordanian position except for those who deliberately look for ambiguity and take cover from such superficialities. Jordan stands ready to extend whatever help it could to the pragmatic who cannot only see through the political fog, and is also ready to step forth and clear the atmosphere once and for all.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Facing the challenge of peace

Reviewed by: Elia Nasrallah

DISCUSSIONS OVER the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the voting in Parliament were given prominent coverage in the local press in the past week. Other topics discussed included the situation in the West Bank, Russian efforts to end the embargo on Iraq and a host of domestic affairs.

A writer in Sawt Al Shaab daily described the endorsement by Parliament of the peace treaty as a victory for democracy in Jordan. The majority of deputies has approved the deal and the minority has declared it will respect the decision, said Ahmad Dabbas. Both the proponents and opponents of the treaty are now in the same boat together with the Jordanian people and face the challenge of living in peace with Israel and implementing the provisions of the agreement which are bound to bring many benefits to the Kingdom, said the writer. National unity and democracy constitute the best tool for confronting the coming challenges.

By endorsing the peace treaty Parliament has opened the door for the long march towards a new era marked with hard work but surrounded with security and stability towards a more prosperous future, said Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist for Al Ra'i daily. With the endorsement of the treaty Jordan enters the

threshold of the 21st century with diligent and hard endeavours not only for the implementation of the treaty's provisions but also for meeting the actual requirements for industrial and economic development, the writer said.

No one can claim that the Jordan-Israel peace treaty would put an end to world Zionism's dream of creating a greater Israel in the midst of the Arab World, said Fahd Fanek, also a writer for Al Ra'i. The treaty and the other treaties with the Arabs are mere tool for achieving Zionism's dreams in a different manner, not through the use of force of arms said the writer. The question is: was it in the Arab Nation's interest to change the nature of the struggle between the Arabs and the Zionists from the use of force to the use of intellect? Now that the treaty has been signed it is incumbent on us to prepare ourselves for the challenges ahead and we should not rely on numbers and quantities but rather opt for quality in all our preparations to confront the coming era.

The peace treaty with Israel, according to Taher Adwan, a columnist for Al Dustour, opens the door for economic and other forms of competition between us and the Jewish state. What the government ought to do now is to

give priority to defending Jordan's economic, trade, tourism and other interests as we have reason to believe that the Israelis want to impose their hegemony on us. Take the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty which has remained ink on paper bringing no joint economic projects or prosperity for the Egyptians, the writer said. He said that the Israelis were bent on keeping the Arab economies weak, and theirs in a dominant position because a strong economy means a strong political power.

A writer in Al Dustour pointed to the danger inherent in the hawkish who still dominate the military establishment in Israel. Mousa Kilani said that while the Americans continue to pour billions of dollars in aid to the Jewish state and provide Israel with the latest and most sophisticated weapons and aircraft, extremists continue the drive through the military and the government to prepare Israel for more expansionist wars against the Arabs. The writer said the Jordan-Israel peace treaty came just in time to stem the fundamentalist trend within the Israeli society and to safeguard Jordan's legitimate rights.

The coming stage following the signing of the peace treaty is a real battle for Jordan, said Tareq Masarweh, a columnist for Al Ra'i. Noting that the Israelis have prepared themselves well for the

coming battle the writer expressed belief that Jordan has not yet risen to the occasion and has not yet made plans to meet the coming challenges of peace. Peace requires us to rally potentials and muster courage in our drive to strengthen the economy, expand trade and secure the real tools for development, said the writer.

A writer in Al Ra'i reflected on Israel's repressive and illegal actions in the occupied Arab lands as impeding the march of peace. The Israelis did not suffice themselves with maintaining their occupation of Hebron for the past quarter of a century but they are now seizing places of worship belonging to the Muslim people, said Mahmoud Rimawi. Partitioning the Al Ibrahim Mosque after closing it for eight months comes as a real blow to the peace efforts and damages prospects for full coexistence between the Jews and the Arabs in Palestine, said Rimawi.

Mohammad Subeithi a columnist for Al Dustour reported that the Israeli television has approached a Jordanian writer offering him the chance to conduct a programme through Israeli television without any restrictions on the material. He said that the Israelis hope that through the employment of Jordanian and other Arab writers they could lure the Arab mind to their side to approve of Israel's policies.

The writer said that this was one instance of the possible future attempts on the part of Israel to dominate the Arab mind. He said that Jordan would soon be hosting correspondents of Israeli media whose job is to explore all prospects and delve into all social and economic areas to pave the ground for Israeli programmes directed at our society.

Mohammad Kawash a writer for Al Dustour said it was a pity to see the Arab countries agreeing to end the struggle with Israel but refraining from taking reconciliatory steps towards Iraq. The writer said that the Arabs should be careful not to transform their conflict with Israel into a conflict among themselves and should take quick moves towards ending the embargo on the Iraqi people. Ending the dispute with Iraq would open the door for reconciliation among the rest of the Arab states.

Praising Russia for its efforts to end the embargo on Iraq Taher Adwan, a columnist for Al Dustour, said that in contrast the American stand was disappointing. Washington has not been satisfied with Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait and demanded that Iraq comply with its own wishes and meet U.S. requirements, said the writer. It seems that the embargo on Iraq is no more connected with the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute but rather with other reasons of Washington's creation, he noted. What is clear to us

now is that the embargo would not end before Israel and the United States secure full Israeli-Arab peace on all fronts.

Ali Safadi, a columnist for Al Dustour, strongly criticised those citizens who resort to firing during social occasions endangering the lives of other innocent citizens. Despite the strict measures taken by the security services against the violators of law and irresponsible people, more victims of stray bullets continue to fall. The writer said that the government is called on to ban possession of any kinds of fire arms so as to put an end to the tragedy.

Nazih Qusous, a columnist for Sawt Al Shaab daily, urged the government to give away state-owned land to poor families on which they can build modest homes. The prices of land for housing purposes especially in Amman is very high and no limited income family ever dreams of owning its own house under the present circumstances, said the writer. In some cases a dunum of land on the outskirts of Amman was reported to be selling for JD100,000, he noted. It is a well-known fact that the state owns large plots of land around the capital which it can sell to limited income groups for nominal prices. By offering these lands to the public at nominal cost the state would also help bring down the prices of land around the capital.

Exile group could hold key to Yemen's future

By Assem Abdul Mohsen Reuter

DUBAI — Lurking for more than eight years in exile, a group of Southern Yemenis with military muscle could make or break the country's political future after its two-month civil war, diplomatic and political sources say.

The group is made up of seven army brigades that fled the former South Yemen to the north in 1986 after losing a power struggle within the South's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP). It kept a low profile until the war from May 4 to July 7 this year, which ended with the defeat of a YSP-led secession attempt — and emerged as one of the clear winners.

Known as the Ali Nasser group after former Southern Yemeni president Ali Nasser Mohammad, "it came out of the war as a power to be reckoned with and, ominously enough, to be feared," one Sanaa-

based diplomat told Reuters.

The diplomat said the group "is likely to make or break the political equation in Yemen in the coming years."

"It will either help cement the country's unity or prepare the ground for another secessionist attempt," he added.

The group wields considerable military power — some 15,000 to 20,000 men — and wants to match this with political might, the sources said.

Ostensibly the group is loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a northerner. It fought with his forces against its former YSP foes, who tried to recreate South Yemen four years after it merged with the north.

Mr. Ali Nasser and his brigades fled to the former North Yemen in January 1986 after losing in bloody clashes to his rivals in the YSP that killed about 13,000 people in Aden.

Mr. Saleh offered to keep the group in check if the southern leader agreed to the merger and threatened to unleash it to cause trouble for them if not, the sources said.

Mr. Ali Nasser himself left Sanaa just before Mr. Saleh concluded the merger in 1990 with Ali Salem Al Beidh, Mr. Ali Nasser's rival and successor as YSP leader. But Mr. Ali Nasser's forces remain.

Though linked to him by association, the group is not politically loyal to the former president, who is now in Syria.

Some of them joined Mr. Saleh's General Peoples Congress (GPC), others the Islamist Islah Party. Others remained independent.

"Over the years they have become loyal to themselves as a group. They tactfully distanced themselves from Ali Nasser, which won them more of Saleh's confidence," one source said.

During the first four

years of the uneasy merger, the group, while a political and military ally of Mr. Saleh, took no active part in the political strife between him and Mr. Beidh.

But when the war started last May, the Ali Nasser brigades and their commanders, familiar with the rugged terrain of their former home, swung the battle in Mr. Saleh's favour.

Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, an officer who fled the south with Mr. Ali Nasser, was appointed defence minister by Mr. Saleh early in the war after his success in overcoming the strategic Mukayay axis — a mountain ridge that forms a gate to the south.

But in October, Mr. Saleh removed Mr. Hadi as defence minister and made him vice-president, a ceremonial job with no real power.

Diplomatic and political sources said the move was an attempt by Mr. Saleh, now that the war was over, to bring the armed forces

back under his full control. Removing Mr. Hadi from the powerful defence portfolio and replacing him by one of his confidants, Abdul Malek Al Sayani, a northerner, was a step in this direction, the sources said.

Another Ali Nasser commander, Ahmad Mused Hussein, was appointed transport minister during the war while he was commanding forces in the southeastern Hadramawt front.

Diplomats and political sources said the group had hoped to double its portfolios to six in Yemen's new cabinet.

Instead, with Mr. Hadi's new post, its share dropped to two — Mr. Hussein and social Affairs Minister Abdulah Al Butani, before the war the only cabinet member from the Ali Nasser group.

"Having got rid of Beidh, the last thing Saleh will be prepared for is to allow the

emergence of another potential rival, especially with southern roots," one source said.

The weakening of the southern-based YSP after the war has left the Ali Nasser group as the only coherent southern bloc.

Mr. Saleh, who formed a two-party coalition government with the Islah Party, stands accused by critics at home and abroad of trying to maintain a northern dominance over the country.

Granting the Ali Nasser group a sizeable role in the cabinet, even as a member of his GPC and Islah, would have been a way to visible rebut the charges.

"But this is fraught with risks. They can pose a threat to him," said one diplomat. "Equally dangerous would be any attempt to muzzle them. They will then be in a position to harvest southern grievances and prepare the ground for another secessionist attempt."

Senators address peace treaty, its implications

Abdallah Salah

FOLLOWING ARE excerpts of speeches given by Upper House of Parliament Members during a session Wednesday at which senators debated the peace treaty with Israel.

Abdallah Salah

After being isolated by the declaration of principles between the Israelis and the Palestinian authority, Jordan found that the opportunity was ripe to get the peace and security as well as restore its rights in the land and water.

The outcome to this situation was the treaty which provided peace and returned to us our land and water rights.

The peace treaty also gave the Arabs a gift by defining Israel's eastern border, and putting an end to the talk that the borders of Israel extend from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The peace treaty which fixed the Israeli borders at the Jordan River and the Wadi Araba rift, secured an international recognition of these borders and confirmed Jordan's western borders which were previously unmarked in a final form.

This treaty should be considered a dividing line between the past and the future as it ends a era of history with an honourable peace achieved through the insight of the Hashemite leadership which made the road ahead of us secure and clear.

Rajal Maasher

In the light of the Lower House of Parliament's overwhelming endorsement of the treaty and the extensive debate that was held by the deputies and the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, I have several points to make:

a. The Jordanian negotiating team under directives from the King proved to be quite capable of handling the mission.

b. This treaty is in Jordan's national interest and the King has declared his full commitment to its provisions to safeguard the country's highest interests.

c. This treaty has ensured the return of Jordanian rights and territory occupied by Israel since 1967, restored Jordan's water share, and ensured the demarcation of the Kingdom's western borders.

d. This treaty does not infringe on the national Palestinian rights and does not adversely affect Jordan's economic, cultural or other commitments with the Arab world.

e. For the first time the Kingdom has succeeded in securing Israel's recognition of Jordan's rights in Jerusalem and its holy places, and this constitutes the beginning of Israel's concessions.

f. The treaty requires both sides to draw up agreements on trade, transport, tourism, etc. and we have to decide for ourselves, how to utilise the tools of the peace treaty to ensure national interests and objectives.

g. This treaty is bound to ensure further economic growth and prosperity for the Kingdom, but achieving this requires tremendous efforts.

The treaty is a gift from the King to his people ensuring their stability, and the country's security.

On Nov. 14 we will be celebrating the King's birthday and our gift to the King should be a declaration of our commitment to protect national unity, and work towards solving our problems rising above personal disputes, and in a scientific manner placing the higher national interests above all other considerations.

I do support the Senate's foreign affairs committee's report which recommended that the House endorse the peace treaty.

Amer Khammash

I begin by thanking His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan and the government for their unique role and relentless efforts to achieve this treaty that safeguards the country's national interests.

I express deep appreciation for the strenuous efforts exerted by the Jordanian negotiating team led by Dr. Fayed Tarawneh who must be given credit for arriving at a just formula ensuring the nation's rights.

From this forum I would like to address the Israeli government and people and say that now that the peace treaty is being endorsed I see that the ball is now in your court. If you wish you can make peace work and be genuine in the full sense of the word. We want peace based on justice and equal rights based on mutual respect. We welcome you as our neighbours. Neither you

nor we would like to see this historic treaty transformed into another indefinite truce.

We are ready to reciprocate peace in as much as you can respond to the peace requirements toward us and our brothers. Make this peace genuine so that it can become a lasting one.

Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat

In the seventh session of the Islamic fiqh (jurisprudence) council of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), convened in Jeddah May 14, 1994, I presented a paper on treaties and agreements in Islam as reflected in Islamic views on international relations, and that was after the Gulf crisis.

During debates of the papers on the issue — the issue of treaties in states of war and peace — I asked a question, whether it is possible to have peace with those who usurped the land and evicted our relatives after shedding their blood, killing the innocent, and stealing their property and water and breaching the sanctity of holy places.

Scholars said: It cannot be because international relations in Islam are based on war, and they based their argument on Koranic verses such as "fight them to prevent sedition..."

Other scholars said: It is allowed because the origin of foreign relations in Islam is peace, and that it is not allowed to fight opponents unless they attack, and war is only permitted in the case of self-defence or in case the enemies resisted Islamic da'wa by force, and if they chose peace, so peace in this case becomes inevitable. And they based their argument on the Koranic verses: "(If they choose peace so let it be your choice and let God be your supporter)"... and they said that a treaty with the enemies was permissible, basing their argument on that the prophet had a treaty with the Jews in Medina, although they had moved to it and took land and settled on it, but when they breached agreement he fought them and drove them away, and that he had signed an agreement with the people of Mecca, although they had driven him and the Muslims from it, and they had reviewed peace agreements between Muslims and their enemies over history, especially the peace between Saladin and Ricardos when the former found that he was no more able to continue the war...

The fiqh council then did not take a decision or a fatwa on the issue.

And at the Senate, I listened to the views of the opponents and proponents of the draft law, and they are all right in their views... the opponents view the treaty as a deviation from the Islamic religion and the divine teachings, and as a deviation from the texts of the Holy Koran and Sunna (the Prophet's sayings) dealing with the Jews, and a violation of the Constitution. They had supported their arguments by verses and the Prophet's sayings, and they viewed it as a recognition of Israel and affirmation of its existence on the land of Palestine, which is a usurped Arab and Islamic land...

The supporters view the treaty as a need to get rid of the state of anxiety, fear and weakness, and that it was a great achievement carried out by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty the King through stepped-up, strenuous efforts, and that it was the best that can be taken while the Arabs are in this state of weakness and disunity, and under pressures which we could not resist... and that it was to end the state of war and protect from wars and to prevent Israel from expanding...

To balance between the two views and observe the treaty, I would like to record the following:

First: Is there any lasting peace? Fighting, discords and wars did not stop since Cain killed Abel, and no treaty between two countries has continued. We are still facing the shadows of the two world wars, discords, dissent, civil wars, betrayal, domination by the super powers, the emergence of destructive wars after the demise of the Soviet Union, especially in former Yugoslavia and what the others did to the Bosnian Muslims.

Second: His Majesty King Hussein has announced the end of the state of war, and the treaty states the end of the state of belligerency between the two countries, and hostility cannot be controlled or cannot disappear unless the reasons for it disappear.

Third: Palestine is an Arab and Islamic land, and the treaty does not mean surrendering the usurped rights, but it is a political state in extraordinarily harsh situations.

Fourth: The call to implement the teachings of the tolerant Islamic Sharia'a does not constitute an act of terrorism, and the Muslims' resistance to corruption, deviation and atheism through peaceful means and dialogue is not also considered intellectual terrorism.

Fifth: What is the use of calling for having a region free of blocks and alliances, from weapons of mass destruction while the other party has the right to them?

Sixth: The Islamic holy places, particularly Al Aqsa Mosque, should be protected because they are for all Muslims, and the role carried out by Jordan to preserve and reconstruct them is a historical role which it should be thanked for. The Islamic nation, Arabs and non-Arabs, is required to preserve and save them.

Seventh: What is important after achieving peace is that we become stronger than before and that we preserve our Arab-Islamic identity and not accept normalisation that melts down our personalities and imposes on us an alien culture or civilisation other than ours. The treaty should not also require us to give up our dogma, religion, values and morals nor ask us to change our curricula and to neglect the texts of our religion to satisfy any person.

We adhere to the teachings of God in terms of dealing with people, and we do not condone corruption and deviation, and this was emphasised by the government in its reply to the queries of the respected deputies.

Laith Sharaf

We are face to face with a great historic responsibility as we debate the peace treaty with Israel. This treaty was necessitated in view of the world and regional political circumstances and the imbalances on the world political scene as well as the disarray in Arab ranks.

I have the following remarks to make about the treaty, which emanate from my deep concerns over its implementation.

1. The treaty calls for ending the psychological barrier between the two sides. Such a move can only be decided by the masses themselves and can not be imposed through documents. Any pressure or rash moves to achieve it could backfire.

2. Article 4 of the treaty discusses security and the creation of a regional security and peace partnership and cooperation in security affairs.

We are here talking about regional security while still ignorant of the nature of peace we will have with Israel.

We are entering into a partnership with Israel to have regional security while we have all along and until recent months considered Israel as the Arabs' foe.

We in Jordan constitute part of the Arab World which we believe is still alive. We ought to direct our attention towards building a new Arab order based on new, solid foundations first before looking beyond towards a regional bloc.

3. With reference to Article 4 of the treaty which stipulates that Jordan can not enter into any alliance with other states, I believe his could be interpreted for the future in a certain way that would damage Jordan's relations with the other Arab states.

We should demand here that Israel reveal the implications of its strategic alliance with the United States if Article Four is to be respected.

4. With reference to Article 2, about free markets, we notice that the negotiators had faced difficulty in reaching agreement. We demand that detailed and full.

5. Article 10 of the treaty relates to cultural matters and cultural exchanges with Israel. It is to be noted that Jordan is for the first time in its history taking steps towards normalising cultural relations with a non-Arab neighbouring state which is alien to Arab and Islamic culture. We are in for a cultural shock and facing real danger to our cultural identity. Culture is not like trade and economy, it is rather something embedded deeply in the Arab souls and therefore every measure should be taken to prevent any alien culture from invading our society.

6. Referring to Article 11 on good neighbourliness, this article stipulates that each side refrain from any hostile campaign against the other and that the concerned authorities take the necessary steps to prevent hostile attitudes.

The article opens the door for different interpretations and could apply to education and the media. We realise that the world Zionism has been influential worldwide in changing the historical realities and in methods of intimidation. Therefore, we do not wish to see this treaty forcing us to change our cultural and political way of life.

This article indeed contains the elements that would pressure us to rewrite history especially in aspects related to the long

Israeli-Arab conflict. The treaty should not be made to be used as a tool to force us change the facts or to end our pan-Arab affiliation.

We have to remember that Israel has never ceased to distort Arab and Islamic image and harm our culture through various media forms and tools and even through cartoons in television programmes. We therefore should demand that Israel stop such practices against Arabs and Muslims and make it clear that Jordan can never be separated from the Arab and Islamic nations.

7. Concerning economic cooperation and joint projects, the treaty provides for the development of the Jordan rift valley, cooperation in agriculture, tourism and health fields and in energy and water-related affairs. We have not yet tested the nature of peace with Israel, but through this treaty, we have obviously pledged to take steps which ought to have been delayed until we see that peace really works. We should have taken time to wait and watch how peace works first.

8. Concerning the Bagoura and Al Ghazal districts, which have been leased to the Israelis, this has created new and complicated problems for Jordan which ought to have been learned from the Taba lesson. Jordan is now faced with the prospect of allowing the Israelis to use the two districts and even renew the lease after it has expired.

In return for leasing the two districts, Jordan ought to demand that Jordanian citizens property now under Israeli control be returned to the Jordanian people.

Nathier Rasheed

FIRST, I would like to inform you that senators Sheikh Ahmad Al Saud Al Adwan, Sheikh Mashour Abu Tayeh and Sheikh Sami Mithqal Al Fayez have all participated in writing this speech and have given me the honour to deliver it on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, The draft law on the peace treaty between the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the government of Israel which we are currently debating has been studied thoroughly with all its annexes. As well, we all followed the report by the respected deputies, whether they supported or opposing it. We also followed all that was published about it in the press and read with interest the report by the foreign affairs committee of the Lower House of Parliament and we found it an objective and complete report. We also read the reply of the prime minister to the Lower House.

We all conclude that this treaty agrees completely with the Jordanian national principled stands which we sought to achieve and this (treaty) is the best our negotiating team managed to obtain.

It had returned to us all our lands and our water share which were stolen, and for the first time since the establishment of Israel we have a fixed and recognised western border.

This treaty that we are discussing now is the most important political event for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan since its establishment. The strenuous efforts of His Majesty King Hussein — may God protect him — have produced the fruits of what his grandfather, the founder of the Kingdom, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, may his soul rest in peace, started by demarcating all its borders. The follow-up of His Majesty to every word in it and his directives to his government and the negotiating team had a great, decisive influence in having the treaty in this honourable form as we see.

For Prince Hassan... we extend our thankfulness for all he has done for the country and for the guidance of King Hussein — may God protect him — and for his participation in preparing this treaty and negotiating it.

And also we express our thanks and gratitude to the prime minister, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, whose government has offered this treaty draft law for us to study and debate. His government has shouldered the responsibility of the negotiations process since its very beginning patiently and with clear vision, disregarding all criticism and sometimes slander... to reach this end under King Hussein's directives.

With regards to all our negotiating delegations, head and members, they were all very efficient, experienced and firm in negotiating. We thank all of them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform you that we decided unanimously to approve treaty draft law.

Taber Hikmat

I would like to express first: that this treaty is not a victory, and it is not also a defeat. And naturally it is not our ultimate goal, nor is it an embodiment of all the nation's aspirations. Whoever says otherwise is exaggerating and is not being objective inasmuch as those who think that this treaty is a final relinquishment of the aspirations of the nation and an abortion of its desires which the generations were taught to adhere to and look up to.

This treaty is the product of a series of historical developments that culminated in an astonishing set of international and domestic changes. And it is a conclusion of historical deeds of a set of Arab practices, treatments and circumstances.

Treaties such as this do not come by a foreign revelation or

an inspiration, but as a logical conclusion to preceding introductions, and as a sum to precise calculations, and as a translation of the real balances of power that are not only excluded to military power, but also to demographic, economic, geographic and strategic considerations...

A state, any state, does not resort to concluding peace treaties after bloody wars and occupation and frustration except as a choice showing in precise calculations that it is the best of available options.

In my view, the choice to have a peace treaty was the best of other bad choices, if I may say that it was the only choice. In that, a review of the status quo of the Arab Nation and its near history... leads us to say that the treaty was a far-sighted response to a host of harsh challenges facing the nation in general, and Jordan in particular, after the acceleration of changes in international and Arab fields, starting with the demise of the Soviet Union, the collapse of Arab solidarity, the military and economic repercussions of the Gulf war, and the repercussions of the absence of Arab coordination in the negotiations which began in Madrid, stumbled in Washington and vanished after the Oslo agreement...

I make this introduction to remind you that the peace treaty cannot be viewed in seclusion of developments and changes proceeding it and conditions accompanying it... and if all the circumstances were taken into consideration the peace treaty will be taken as an inevitable outcome of all that has preceded it, an outcome that can be described as what could be obtained in these circumstances. That is in addition to our reservations about some of its contents. We cannot list these reservations since our view of the treaty should be given as a whole in accordance with the constitution.

No doubt, the treaty is a crucial and significant event. But certainly it is not the end of history. Concluding it is not a surrender to the others, or giving up to their culture, civilisation and claims because the culture of the nation and its civilisation and identity cannot be cancelled by words printed in texts on paper. The texts of treaties remain cold and lifeless for ever if they do not constitute a genuine response for the need to preserve the cultural identity, and in case they were unable through their implementation to generate a conviction in the hearts of the nation, justice and frustration... otherwise they will remain cold.

Certainly it is not the end of history, and not a confiscation of the future, but the beginning of a new era that requires comprehensive changes to the means and methods of preserving the existence of this nation and its identity in its continued battle...

The treaty might have shortfalls, and there might be in it some gaps that require thinking as do all treaties in the world. The speeches and studies by those opposing the treaty have illuminated some of its important aspects that merit our attention and our attempts to avoid them (the wide window open in all treaties) and this is the window of interpreting vague or ambiguous words.

I believe that the best that we can do as opponents and supporters of the treaty is to unify our ranks, both government and opposition, to secure the best position that might meet the national rights through the stages of implementing it without haste and when interpreting its texts...

These negotiations have led to the conclusion of a peace treaty, which, most importantly, enabled Jordan to regain its land and water, and to delineate its international borders. I accept this decision and I consider it an incentive for the nation and a challenge for a difficult stage for which we all have to unite to be able to face.

Dr. Saeed Al Tal

We can say that the prevailing international conditions with all their ramifications, and the Arab conditions with all their difficulties and problems, and the Jordanian situation with all its circumstances and conditions make the joining of the Arab-Israeli peace process an issue that would serve the interest of Jordan as well as its security and stability, serve Arab interests, and make it something which runs in conformity with international aspirations to resolve all conflicts in the world peacefully and through negotiations...

The Jordanian citizen was wishing that the Jordanian Israeli peace treaty draft law be discussed within a framework of full coordination among Arab countries concerned directly with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such coordination would have been the best security to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the conflict.

The Jordanian citizen was also wishing that this treaty's draft law be discussed while strictly free as free in full control of its capabilities. The importance of Iraq and its significance for Jordan, Syria and Palestine in the

political negotiations is not less important than its importance in military confrontations.

The Jordanian citizen stands these days facing two extremely important issues.

The first, convictions and positions related to Palestine, the land of Palestine, the people of Palestine and the unjust aggression on them. These convictions and positions were formed, developed and enhanced over many years. The second, international Arab and Jordanian developments that have created new circumstances imposing adjustments to these aforementioned convictions and positions to make them fit these changes and developments to serve the interests of Jordan and its development, stability, security and prosperity in a way that does not contravene the interests and positions of the Arab countries concerned directly with the Arab-Israeli conflict, including Palestine.

On the other hand, human convictions and positions in general are mental and psychological components that cannot be changed or amended easily, and if they change or shift, this should follow certain conditions and rules.

Based on this, any change or amendment of the convictions of the Jordanian citizen on the Palestinian issue to make them conform to international, Arab and Jordanian developments and changes and their requirements — and that is for pushing the Arab-Israeli peace process forward and consequently accepting the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty — is not an easy thing and something that cannot be achieved logically and democratically except through justifications that can be accepted by the Jordanian citizen... and I believe that these justifications cannot be achieved unless the Jordanian citizen felt that there was a sincere intention to do the following:

— Resolve the Palestinian question, the core issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in a just way that would restore to the Palestinian people its legitimate rights on the soil of its nation, Palestine, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council. The lack of a just solution to this cause in a way acceptable to the Palestinian people, will be a time bomb that will one day derail the peace process.

On another hand, we should remember that the Jordanian people is the twin of the Palestinian people and that both peoples constitute, as reiterated continuously by His Majesty the King, one family in view of the pan-Arab, demographic, geographic and destiny ties. This reality makes Jordan's peace with Israel shaky if there was no solution leading to a just peace with Palestine and the Palestinian people. The same also applies to Syria and the Syrians, Lebanon and the Lebanese.

Full Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab lands occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. Jerusalem has a special and deeply-rooted status in the minds and sentiments of the Arabs and Muslims and the continuation of its occupation by Israel will make peace incomplete and unacceptable to the Arabs and Muslims.

There will be no peace between the Arabs and Israel without returning Jerusalem to full Arab sovereignty.

Peace with Israel should not influence in any way relations between Arab countries. The relationship of any Arab country with Israel, no matter how far it develops, should not in any form

be better than relations between any two Arab countries. Our acceptance of peace with Israel should not also in any form be an obstacle to the establishment of a federated relationship between the countries of Bilad Al Sham (greater Syria which includes Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine) as a first step, and to include later the countries of the fertile crescent (which in addition to greater Syria include Iraq). Our security, stability, development and prosperity are organically linked to our unity which we would not compromise in any way or form.

Agreeing to peace, accepting Israel in our region and our respect to all this should not influence in any way the unity of our Arab order, especially the unity between its east with its west. If a Middle Eastern order including the Arab states in addition to Turkey, Iran and Iraq develops, the Arab order should be one unit — with its idiosyncrasy and goals — within the framework of this order. This is acceptable in the theory of known orders. In the Western system there is the European Union gathering European countries.

Arab peace with Israel cannot be a comprehensive, just and lasting peace if there were no basic changes to the Zionist written and unwritten thinking and Zionist slogans at the private and public levels to that the Arab individuals would feel secure and reassured and that there is a genuine and sincere desire for a lasting, just and comprehensive peace. The answer of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when he was asked whether there were any changes in the goals of the state of Israel with regards to the dimensions of this state, he said there was no change in its goals, but a change in means and methods. This answer is not reassuring, and even I think it is a dangerous one. The repeated statements by the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister that Jerusalem (all Jerusalem) is the eternal capital of the state of Israel is rejected at the Palestinian, Jordanian, Arab and Islamic levels, and is a main impediment to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

I read the Jordanian-Israeli treaty more than once thoroughly and with all the great concern that it deserves.

After reading it, I found myself thinking, as did many Jordanians, facing two possibilities, the first is the convictions and positions in my mind on the Palestinian question — the core of the Arab conflict — which were formed in an early stage in my life and which grew and developed by time. The second is the reality of the Jordanian changes and developments which I mentioned before and which have created new situations that call for amending these convictions and positions to make them fit these changes and developments...

Based on all that, my conviction to approve the Jordanian Israeli peace treaty draft law were not complete. I hope that they become complete in the nearest possible chance through translating it (the treaty) practically on the ground through the conclusion by all Arab parties, especially the Palestinian side, of treaties with Israel so as to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

Above all, if I approve it when it is put to vote in our kind house, my opinion should be intended to keep me in the line, the promising and pioneering leader and his wise government... The leader who I believe in his exceptional leadership, and I trust his true wisdom, and I appreciate his profound experience and farsightedness...

Mideast depends on peace

(Continued from page 1)

our nation. Our nation brought to the world the message of tolerance and scientific development. Our nation gave birth to a civilisation which in its pinnacle, reached Europe through Spain routes. We wish this linkage to take root and look forward to launching a dialogue of civilisations among nations similar to the admirable and model dialogue begun by the Spanish and Arab civilisations.

King Juan Carlos expressed Spain's desire to contribute further to the peace process, he said:

"I and the queen are honoured and are extremely happy over this official visit to Jordan, with which many institutional and personal ties bind us that we feel we are among our family."

I'd like, Your Majesty, in the beginning to extend my greatest thanks for you for your address referring to old friendship, to dreams and goals we shared for a long time for our two countries...

"Your Majesty, the history of Jordan is an extent repository by your personal history. By sharing yourself and through sacrifice you managed to win for your country the respect and the admiration of the international community, in spite of the difficult situations that often you have witnessed. You have also gained the honest respect of your people, this people whom you often refer to as a large family without excluding any one or preferring any individual over another, and this family

is rich with its ethnic and religious diversity..."

"Spain wants to be present in the region to offer assistance within its capabilities as it used to do this far in an attempt to push the peace process forward, this process, which we consider ourselves responsible for in view of the place where it was launched..."

"We have to enhance our bilateral relations in all fields, and we have to give the way for our imagination so that the processes of commercial and technological exchanges in various fields no more remain symbolic and excluded to good intentions. This way we will be able to go forward on the way of a much more practical integration..."

"Jordan had to face a very critical political and economic situation and was affected by the repercussions of conflicts in the region. It also had to face complicated and critical challenges of the peace process as it was strengthening its democratic institutions, firmly and courageously..."

"We cannot but expect results giving more hope, and this is all thanks to Your Majesty, particularly to the national effort and the leadership of Your Majesty..."

"The most important international financial institutions have offered guarantees for these efforts and results, and it was time for the international community to express its solidarity. Spain, Your Majesty, will not save an effort in carrying out the duty of solidarity and support..."

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 11/11/94	Tokyo Close Date: 11/11/94
Sterling Pound	1.6055	1.6046
Deutsche Mark	1.5276	1.5285
Swiss Franc	1.2828	1.2820
French Franc	5.2500	5.2553**
Japanese Yen	97.78	97.77
European Currency Unit	1.2350	1.2339**

(USD Per JGD)
European Opening at 8:00 AM GMT

Barrenness Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.00	5.50	5.87	6.25
Sterling Pound	5.37	5.87	6.12	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.93	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.43	3.66	3.87	4.31
French Franc	5.05	5.43	5.68	6.12
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.18	2.31	2.62
European Currency Unit	5.75	6.06	6.31	6.75

(Interest rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent)

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6910	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.1127	1.1183
Deutsche Mark	0.4536	0.4584
Swiss Franc	0.5411	0.5438
French Franc	0.1520	0.1527
Japanese Yen	0.7093	0.7128
Dutch Guilder	0.4049	0.4089
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8250	1.8450
Lebanese Lira	0.041015	0.042280
Saudi Riyal	0.1642	0.1656
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3050	2.3650
Qatari Riyal	0.1894	0.1910
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2000
Omani Riyal	1.7850	1.8120
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1884	0.1893
Irish Drachma	0.2775	0.3165
Cypriot Pound	1.4020	1.5030

Asia-Pacific ministers endorse investment code

JAKARTA (R) — Asia-Pacific ministers Friday endorsed contentious investment principles for a region responsible for half the world's trade and industrial output.

The action highlighted the start of a two-day meeting which opened with Indonesia's President Suharto urging an accelerated drive for a free trade area embracing half the globe's people.

Squabbling over the investment code by senior officials had threatened to cast a shadow over the ambitious trade talks of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Most ministers had little to say after the first session of the meeting of 18 first and Third World nations.

Their talks will set the

scene for a summit in nearby Bogor next Tuesday hosted by President Suharto and including U.S. President Bill Clinton, Chinese President Jiang Zemin and other leaders.

"As part of the ministerial declaration, this morning the ministers endorsed the set of non-binding principles for investment," Joun Yung Sun, a senior South Korean foreign ministry official, told reporters. He gave no details.

APEC's 18 countries, including new member Chile, account for about 45 per cent of trade in the world, raising the prospect of a formidable new free trade bloc by the year 2020.

The Bogor summit is likely to endorse plans edging APEC towards its ambitious goals, and President Suharto provided the backdrop when he opened the ministerial meetings.

The ministers later met in a cavernous convention centre in Jakarta, capital of one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Japanese officials said the first day was spent covering economic trends, trade and investment.

APEC officials took three days to hammer out by Thursday the non-binding investment treaty after U.S. reluctance because it did not contain sufficient protection for investors.

APEC groups Australia, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Chile.

The investment code, endorsed Friday, is part of efforts to move towards free trade. If enforced, it would go beyond trends endorsed in the latest round of world trade talks.

Much of the interest over the next few days will be in bilateral contacts between ministers and leaders.

South Korean officials said President Kim Young-Sam planned to seek participation by APEC members in a U.S.-led drive to end the dispute over secretive North Korean nuclear development.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was to ask China to encourage North Korea to go along, U.S. officials said.

Chinese officials have indicated their goals include get-

U.S. officials explore banking facilities in Jordan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Concluding a two-week visit to Morocco, Egypt, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, a delegation of U.S. officials met with Jordanian bank and business representatives here Wednesday to explore banking facilities in Jordan relevant to investment projects in the private sector.

The U.S. officials, among them members of the State Department, the Department of Commerce and Vice President Al Gore's staff, had met Jordan's central bank and Ministry of Planning representatives earlier the same day. They also visited Jordanian computer companies.

"Our focus should be on joint technological development," Mr. Jan Kalicki, counsellor to the U.S. Department of Commerce, said to the Jordan Times. He said that the establishment of a Middle East business network had been discussed.

The round table discussion, organised by the Amman-based Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies, focused on legal and institutional aspects concerning foreign investment in and exports to Jordan. Jordan's investment law and lack of credit insurance facilities were seen by all participants as the main obstacles to wide scale foreign investment in the private sector here.

"The Jordanian market has still to jump on the bank-wagon of peace," said a Jordanian banker.

Mr. George Donegan, deputy vice president of the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) bank, presented an overview of export-related U.S. initiatives. The "EX-Im" bank is a U.S. government agency aiming to create jobs in the U.S. by promoting export. The bank offers credit insurance, and, under certain conditions, loans and loan guarantees to foreign buyers of U.S. goods.

Mr. Donegan highlighted the recent bilateral Jordan-U.S. investment treaty and the planned Middle East development bank as "a new banking and financial framework for the Jordanian private sector."

However, Cities and Villages Development Bank manager Zuhair Khalfaf was sceptical about the successful outcome of the Middle East development bank, saying that similar institutions in Europe have "frankly failed to be cost-effective". The Middle East development bank is currently under study and proposals are to be presented at the Middle East Economic Summit in Amman in May next year.

The U.S. representatives said that Jordan was vital for foreign investors to get access to the markets in the region. They expressed their hope that financially powerful Arab and Jewish Americans will invest in the region, including Jordan.

Activity at the AFM begins to improve

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The endorsement of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty by Parliament and behind-the-scenes suggestions that the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 economic summit paved the way for viable projects in Jordan boosted the Amman stock market last week, brokers said Friday.

Weekly trading nearly

doubled and share prices of more than 50 companies rose last week at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), as the Jordanian bourse is officially known.

The rise in stock prices was more pronounced in the industrial and service sectors than the insurance and commercial bank sectors, the weekly AFM report showed.

The report said the weekly turnover rose to

JD6.1 million, up 96.8 per cent from last week's JD3.1 million. The average daily turnover also rose to JD1.2 million, up from last week's JD600,000, the report noted.

The general share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 145.6 points, up 2.5 points or 1.7 per cent from the week's opening of 143.1 points.

The report said the separate sectoral indices closed higher: The industrial sector rose by 2.6 points or two per cent, the services sector by five points or 3.8 per cent, the insurance sector by 0.7 points or 0.5 per cent and commercial banks and financial institutions by 2.1 points or 1.4 per cent.

The industrial sector accounted for JD2.8 million, or 64.5 per cent of the weekly turnover, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD1.6 million, or 26.2 per cent, and the services sector closely behind with JD1.58 million, or 25.8 per cent. Insurance stock, recovering from a several-month slump, also rose in

turnover, with JD900,000, or 11.5 per cent of the weekly volume.

Shares of 73 companies were traded during the week, with 53 of them showing gains, 13 losing and seven remaining stable.

Brokers attributed the upward swing of the market to the parliamentary endorsement of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 and indications that Jordan had presented a good case in the Casablanca summit which dwelt on investment in the Middle East in a state of peace and stability.

The Lower House of Parliament endorsed the peace treaty on Monday with a 55-23 vote, with one abstention (by the speaker of the House whose vote is required only in a situation of tie). One member was absent.

The Lower House's endorsement of the treaty cleared the way for the development to reflect on the market for three days of trading, brokers said.

The Upper House of Parliament endorsed the treaty on Wednesday.

While Parliament approval of the treaty was a foregone conclusion, some "trendsetters" in the market used it as an opportunity to spur dealings and break a stagnation that featured in the market despite the signing of the peace treaty, brokers said.

Helping the reinvigoration of the market were "suggestions" that investors and governments gathered in the Casablanca summit had shown interest in proposals submitted by Jordan.

Another factor behind the upturn in the market was also a move by some investors to take year-end positions ahead of the expected release of figures by most companies in December, the brokers said.

"There is never an upward swing in the market as a result of a sole development," commented one broker. "There is always a combination of factors that leads to investor interest in buying and selling."

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3576/86	Canadian dollar
	1.5280/90	Deutsche marks
	1.7132/42	Dutch guilders
	1.2788/98	Swiss francs
	31.41/45	Belgian francs
	3.2305/55	French francs
	156.27/2	Italian lire
	97.67/76	Japanese yen
	7.2600/00	Swedish crowns
	6.6950/80	Norwegian crowns
	5.9705/35	Danish crowns
	51.6016/26	
One sterling	\$385.10 \$385.50	
One ounce of gold		

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

FOR RENT

Apartment building in Um Uthaina (whole or individual apartments), consisting of four floors, two apartments on each floor - 170 square metres each. Each apartment has three bedrooms two baths, parlor, and sitting room. For more details call: **Abdoun Real Estate Tel. 810605/810609/810520 Fax: 810520**

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times

Call tel: **667171 ext. 223**

A SECURE FLATOTEL Swefiyah

Turino

Flat O.Tel SECURITY HOSPITALITY GASTRONOMY

Cheers Cafe

Hamburgers + Pizzas

ELITE CAFE

816690 863944

La Vita Lounge

12:00 pm - v - Late

THE ATMOSPHERE CREATORS

TALK OF THE TOWN DISCOTHEQUE

Open nightly From 9:00 P.M. Except Tuesday closed Monday: Drinks All Night Long

Buy One Get Two

A Menu of Delicious Snacks Tel. 685211 Fax: 617779 Middle East Hotel - Shmelaani

Milano Restaurant

Pizza Pasta Exotic Sandwiches & Hamburgers

Sit - In Take - A - way Home Delivery

Shmelaani - Tel. 680670

La Coquette Restaurant

FRENCH CUISINE ENJOY OUR NEW MENU

SEAFOOD LUNCH DINNER 7 DAYS A WEEK

680023 / 4 Shmelaani - Shmelaani

JR-SAT

WALID JARRAR CO.

Tel. 776199 - 692779 Fax 781681 Service 776299

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmelaani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042 Swefiyah tel: 823891

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m. 6:30 - Midnight Air Conditioned Hall

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Aniyah Girls School

Take away is available Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 7:00 - Midnight Tel. 638968

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL

667171/6-670141/4 Ext. 223

SELECT HOTEL

Superior Hotel Services for Businessmen & Families & its

NeGrEsCo BaR

Good Drinks & Excellent Snacks Open Noons & Evenings

Jabal Al Webdeh/Tel.637101/637102

Clarks

KURDI STORES

Suwaifiyah Tel. 827105

Navratilova to face Sabatini in her final tournament

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Martina Navratilova will open the last tournament of her career against Gabriela Sabatini in the \$3.5 million Virginia Slims Championship in New York.

Navratilova, the most successful tennis player in history, is retiring after the tournament, which marks the final stop on the 1994 women's tour. The 38-year-old has won 167 singles titles and earned more than \$20.5 million since turning pro in 1973.

Sabatini, who reached the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia on Thursday, said she is looking forward to playing against Navratilova in the round-robin tournament.

"I'm excited," Sabatini said. "I love to play against Martina, and it's going to be very special because it's her last tournament. I want to win, too. I hope we can play our best and make it a good match."

Navratilova won 18 grand slam titles, including nine Wimbledon, in singles, 31 in doubles and six in mixed doubles. Navratilova decided earlier this season that this would be her last on tour.

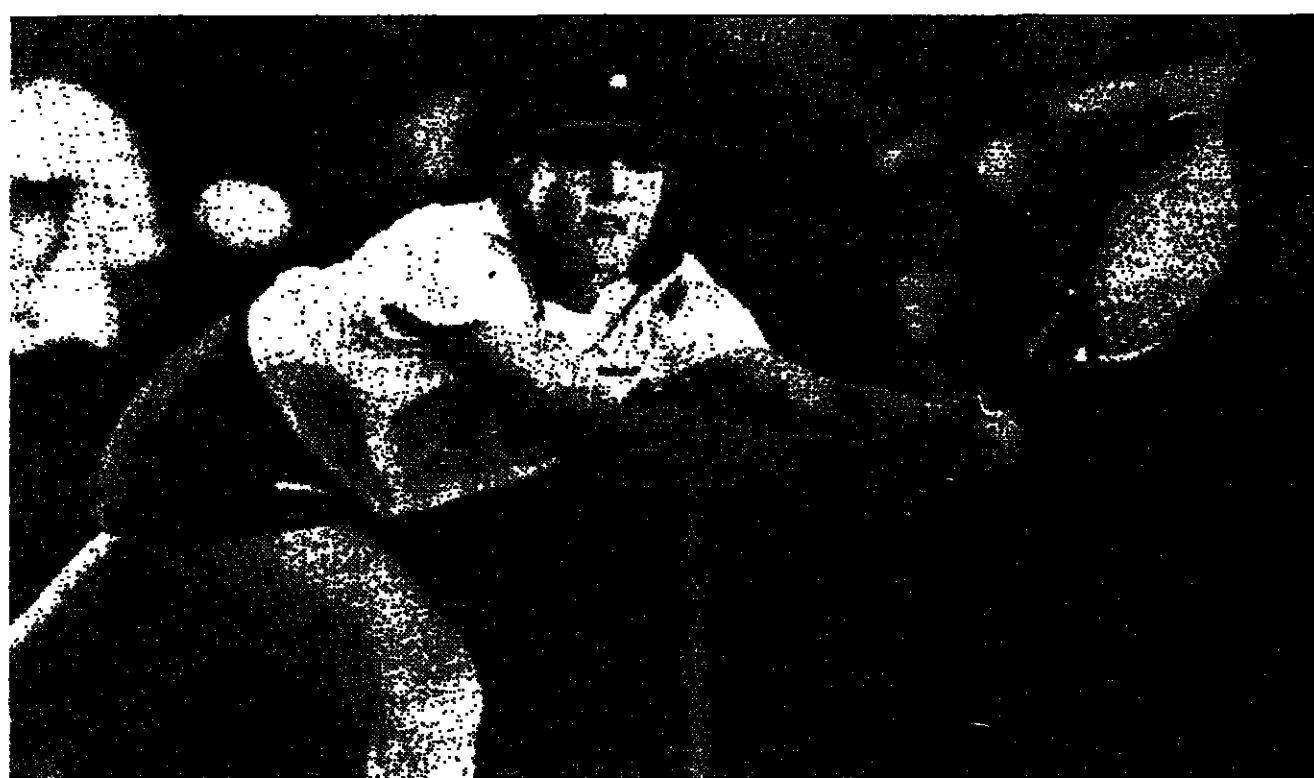
She is seeded sixth in the Virginia Slims Championships, which runs from Monday to Nov. 20. The tournament includes the top 16 players in the world.

The other first-round matches include Steffi Graf vs. Brenda Schultz; Amanda Coetzer vs. Mary Pierce; Jana Novotna vs. Iva Majoli; Anke Huber vs. Lindsay Davenport; Kimiko Date vs. Magdalena Maleeva; Natalia Zvereva vs. Conchita Martinez; Julie Halard vs. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Davenport falls to Schultz
Brenda Schultz, rattling serves of more than 105 mph (168 kph), defeated Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 Thursday in the second round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Schultz powered her way past the third seed, among the hardest baseline hitters on the women's tour.

"I knew the only way to beat Lindsay was to hit harder than she does," Schultz



Jennifer Capriati leaps to return a volley in her match at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia (AFP photo)

said. "If she starts hitting hard and cranking it up, she'll hit winners all over the place."

Jennifer Capriati pulled out of doubles competition after sustaining a sore right shoulder during her first singles match in more than a year.

Capriati was to play with Mercedes Paz against Pam Shriver and Elizabeth Smylie in a first-round match. On Wednesday, Capriati lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to Anke Huber.

In other second-round singles matches, No. 2 seed Mary Pierce struggled early before winning 10 of the last 11 games en route to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Patty Fendick.

Pierce will next play 16-year-old newcomer Meilen Tu, who defeated Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-3. Tu, a wild-card entry from California, won for the second time on the tour to advance to the quarterfinals.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini got off to a slow start before beating Joannette Kruger, 6-4, 6-0. Sabatini will play Chanda Rubin in the quarters. Schultz, clocked with the

hardest serve at 113 mph (181 kph) earlier this year, hit two aces in the final games of the third set to win the match. She won the last three games in the last two sets after Davenport showed effective groundstrokes in winning the first set.

Schultz hit consecutive aces early in the third set, prompting a frustrated Davenport to scream. "Get me out of here," the 18-year-old American took a 3-2 lead in the third but was broken at 4-4 before the 23-year-old Dutchwoman served for the match.

"You try to weather the storm," Davenport said. "You just try to get balls back in. I couldn't do that."

Schultz also got easy points when Davenport made returns, Schultz used her powerful forehand down the line after being set up by Davenport's weak lobs.

"It was hurting my wrist when I touched it," Davenport said. "The ball would bounce off my racket, and my hand would just bend back."

Schultz will play fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva in the next round, Zvereva de-

feated Julie Halard 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday.

Fendick had a 3-2 lead in the first set before Pierce won four straight games. Pierce then attacked Fendick's serve in the second set and won the final point with a powerful backhand down the line.

Pierce, ranked fifth in the world, remains the highest seed in the tournament after top-seeded Conchita Martinez was knocked out in the first round.

Nathalie Tauziat, who beat Martinez in her first match, was eliminated by Kimberly Po 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 less than 18 hours after her upset victory. Po won the final two games and beat Tauziat with a backhand lob at match point.

Sampras at top in EC Championships

In Antwerp Pete Sampras is in a league all his own at the \$1.1 million European Community Championship — partly by design, partly by disease.

Sampras goes into the quarterfinal against little-known Byron Black, of Zimbabwe and his closest challenger left in the event is the

world's No. 20, Australian Patrick Rafter, seeded sixth here.

Gone are Michael Stich, Stefan Edberg and Richard Krajicek, Boris Becker, who was supposed to be here, just didn't show up.

"It's surprising to see so many of the top 5 seeds lose," Sampras said. "But I'm not going to take it easy on anyone."

Edberg, the No. 3 seed, couldn't even get on court Thursday. Two hours ahead of his match, he was nursing a high fever and a sore throat. "The European weather, maybe," said Sampras.

Sampras had a similar case of tonsillitis earlier in the week, when antibiotics made him sluggish and slow during a tougher than expected opening match against a local wild card.

"It's gone now," he said after a copybook 6-3, 6-3 win over fellow American Richey Reneberg. "I gave it to Stefan."

Edberg's withdrawal gave American Jared Palmer a free ride into the quarterfinals.

1st Division Basketball Championship

Ahli defeat Al Watani; Jalil overcome Homentmen

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tideholders Al Ahli scored their third consecutive victory Thursday scoring over the 100 point mark when they defeated Al Watani 130-67 in the third week of the 1st Division Basketball Championship.

In the day's only other match, Homentmen surprised Al Jalil in the first half but later lost the match 96-60 at Yarmouk University court in Irbid.

Former champions Al Orthodoxy play the first of their matches Sunday. Their scheduled match against Al Hussein was postponed because of weather conditions last week.

Al Ahli's win over Al Watani added more points to their already impressive score count. They had scored a 119-54 win over Al Hussein and 135-26 over Homentmen.

Although Al Ahli's team officials seem to have no fears that their players can hold on to the title for the third consecutive year, they have urged their players to give it all they have and

score big wins before they play their more decisive matches against Al Orthodoxy and Al Jazireh.

Al Ahli's players implemented that policy right to the last word as they overcame Al Watani 75-25 in the first half, before sealing their 130-67 win.

Al Watani have now lost two matches and have a crucial match against Al Jalil Sunday.

Meanwhile, Homentmen who lost to Al Ahli and Al Watani, surprised Al Jalil in Irbid as their players put up a big fight and scoring remained close throughout the first half in which Sevan Sarkissian scored five three-pointers but Al Jalil still won the half 37-35.

Al Jalil tightened defence in the second half and took advantage of Homentmen's lack of fitness and effective substitutes to replace the tired players. Al Jalil therefore managed to expand their lead and scored a 96-60 victory.

Homentmen will next take on former champions Al Orthodoxy.

Al Hussein, who had finished sixth last season, will have to improve that standing by overcoming at least two teams to avoid relegation. They will next face Al Jazireh, the third place finisher last year, and the team that might be able to upset Al Orthodoxy and clinch second place for the first time.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Ahli	3	3	—	384	147	6
Jazireh	2	2	—	164	137	4
Watani	3	1	2	209	270	4
Jalil	2	1	1	165	133	3
Homentmen	3	—	3	135	305	3
Hussein	1	—	1	54	119	1
Orthodoxy	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Orthodoxy-Hussein have a postponed match.

Zimbabwe team behind Grobbelaar

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe's acting coach Rudi Gutendorf said Friday his team fully backed national goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, accused in Britain of accepting bribes to fix matches there.

"The whole team is fully behind him," said Gutendorf as Grobbelaar, who flew into Harare from London Friday, joined other Zimbabwean players for practice ahead of Sunday's African Cup qualifier in Harare between Zimbabwe and Zaire.

Gutendorf said Grobbelaar had told his teammates he was being "framed" by his former business partner Chris Vincent, who disclosed the alleged match fixing to Britain's Sun newspaper earlier this week. Vincent has said he stands by the charges.

Grobbelaar, 37, has strenuously denied the allegations and issued a statement through his British lawyers saying he was suing the Sun and other media involved.

Before starting Friday's one-hour practice session, Zimbabwe's most famous football export hugged some of his teammates.

"I am happy to be back. This is the country I love and I know that people will support me here," he said.

Asked what he thought about the bribery charges against Grobbelaar, who has played for Zimbabwe for 15



Zimbabwean goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar in action for Liverpool during a British League match against Norwich (AFP photo)

years, Zimbabwean reserve goalkeeper Ernest Chirambare said he did not believe them.

"I don't believe he could have taken bribes. Neither do the other guys," he said.

Another teammate, Ephraim Chawanda, said the charges did not bother him much "because I know Bruce. I don't believe he would do such a thing. He's an excellent player and sportsman."

"The rest of the guys don't believe this alleged scandal. We are all in high spirits and so is Bruce," he said.

Peter Ndlovu, another Zimbabwean player who flew into Harare earlier this week, for Sunday's game, declined to comment.

Grobbelaar pledged to play to the best of his ability for Zimbabwe on Sunday. "I just want to put the allegations behind me until at least the game is over," he said. He said he would return to Britain Monday to fight the charges, being investigated by England's Football Association (F.A.) and the British police.

Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) officials said they had yet to hear from the F.A. about the affair. "As far as I'm concerned Grobbelaar is innocent," said Lazarus Mhushomana, ZIFA's senior administrator who was at the national sports stadium in Harare where the team was practising.

REQUIRED TO BAHRAIN

Al Iman School in the state of Bahrain seeks applications for qualified and experienced English language teachers and supervisors (male and female) to teach primary and preparatory stages.

Applicants should:

1. Be U.S. or U.K. graduates.
2. Be bilingual in English and Arabic. "Both."
3. Have a master degree in English. "Supervisors."
4. Have a B.A. degree in English with at least a "very good" average. "Teachers."
5. Have a degree in education. "Both."
6. Have not less than 5 years experience in teaching, preferable in English schools. "Both."
7. Have not less than 5 years experience in supervision. "Supervisors."

Priority is given to participants who have written books, work, compilation of educational development schemes, or advanced courses in computer usage and others related to teaching. Please send CV to:

P.O. Box 477
Irbid - Jordan
Head of English Department



Italian Travel Agents And Journalists Tour Jordan

World Travel and Tourism, Philadelphia Hotel, Amman, Holiday International Hotel, Aqaba, in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities are hosting Mr. Bruno Coser, the chairman of Coser Tours, which is considered

one of the leading tour operators in Italy.

Mr. Coser is accompanied by 30 travel agents and journalists who will be visiting Jordan for the second time in order to direct their continuous efforts to bring tourists to the country.

Foreman might fight Tyson

HOUSTON (AP) — George Foreman, a newly renowned heavyweight champion at 45, might climb back into the ring, but it looks like it could take ex-Champ Mike Tyson and Big George's mother to make it happen.

"Tyson would be the only guy that would make me feel the spice to fight again," Foreman said Thursday. "I'd fight him instantly."

Tyson is in prison in Indiana serving a sentence for rape. He is eligible to be released next May.

Foreman, though, added he would fight again only if he received permission from his mother, Nancy, and she's not saying.

"Oh no comment," Nancy Foreman said, laughing. "I'll let him know first and we'll sit down in the next couple of days and talk it over."

Foreman, who turns 46 in January, called a news conference at Houston gym to reveal in his renewed status as heavyweight title-holder. He warned everyone not to question his age, whatever it is.

"I'm not going to allow anyone to look down on me because of my age," he said.

"If you say my knees are gone, then I'll retire, or that I can't punch, then I'll retire. But I can fight at this age."

Nantes stay unbeaten

PARIS (R) — Leaders Nantes extended their run in the French Soccer League to 17 games thanks to a hard-fought 2-2 draw with Monaco after an eventful match in the principality Thursday.

It left them six points clear of second-placed Paris St. Germain who beat Rennes 2-1 Wednesday.

Nantes took a 1-0 lead when Patrice Loko scored just before the break but in the 61st minute their goalkeeper David Marand was forced to leave the pitch after hurting his knee in a goal-mouth clash.

Despite that setback, Nantes went two ahead through a superb volley by international striker Nicolas Ouedec in the 74th minute.

NEW VILLA FOR RENT

1. Composed of the following:
Ground floor of 2 bedrooms, bathroom and a master bedroom with bathroom and living hall, dining hall and kitchen with store room and side terrace with a car-park along with surrounding garden and ground water tank.
2. Basement floor of a shelter room and boiler-room. Super deluxe, newly designed finishings. Location: Al Jandawel, Wadi Aseer.

Tel. 822640

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Position:

Director for a Modern Educational Institute

Must be an energetic leader manager with the knowledge, experience and interpersonal skills necessary to establishing new programmes in language(s) teaching, computer, managerial and other training courses. Candidate should be able to promote activities of the institute through government departments, private sector corporations, universities, colleges, schools and other international parties.

Similar experience is a great advantage.

Ideal age between 35-45 years. American or British universities graduates in EFL, ESL, Educational or Business Administration or related majors shall be given preference.

Interested candidates may send their C.V. indicating their full address & tel. number not later than Nov. 25, 1994 to:

Managing Director P.O. Box 751 Tla a Al Amman 11953 Jordan

Earn Your American University Degree at a College in London

Study Business Administration, Commercial Art, Fashion Design, Fashion Marketing, Interior Design, and Video Production

You'll feel right at home studying with your fellow students from Jordan who have chosen The American College in London. The American College confers university-level master's, bachelor's and associate degrees. For further information or a prospectus, contact:



The American College in London

110 Marylebone High Street
London W1M 3DB England
Tel. (0171) 486-1772
FAX: (0171) 935-8144

Classes begin
October, January, March, June, July

Get the spirit of competition & bring it to the

SATURDAY

Happy hour does an all nighter
Every Saturday. Order a drink
and the second round is on
the house!

The 10% discount does not apply during happy hour.

MARRIOTT SPORTS BAR

SUNDAY: Basketball night
MONDAY: Free snack buffet
TUESDAY: Quiz night
WEDNESDAY: Darts night
FRIDAY: Pool night

AMMAN Marriott مارriott
P.O. Box: 928333 Amman - Jordan
Tel: 807907 Fax: 870100

Mansell fastest; Schumacher escapes crash

IDE (Agencies) — ADEL Jack, former world He's son Nigel Mansell Fri-champ grabbed provisional pole day tion for Sunday's Austraposi Grand Prix just a month lianr switching from the In-afcar series.

dy World championship lead- r Michael Schumacher "scaped unscathed from a "spectacular high-speed crash as he attempted to match Mansell's time of one minute 16.179 seconds around the 3.78-kilometre Adelaide street circuit.

Mansell averaged 178.631 kilometres per hour in his Williams-Renault.

The 41-year-old British veteran overtook Schumacher with less than four minutes left in the first qualifying session, having recovered his composure after spinning minutes earlier while avoiding a collision with the stalled car of Johnny Herbert.

"You have to have a sense of humour when you come round the corner full bore and see the track blocked," said Mansell. "That was a close moment, and I was happy to be able to do a time after that."

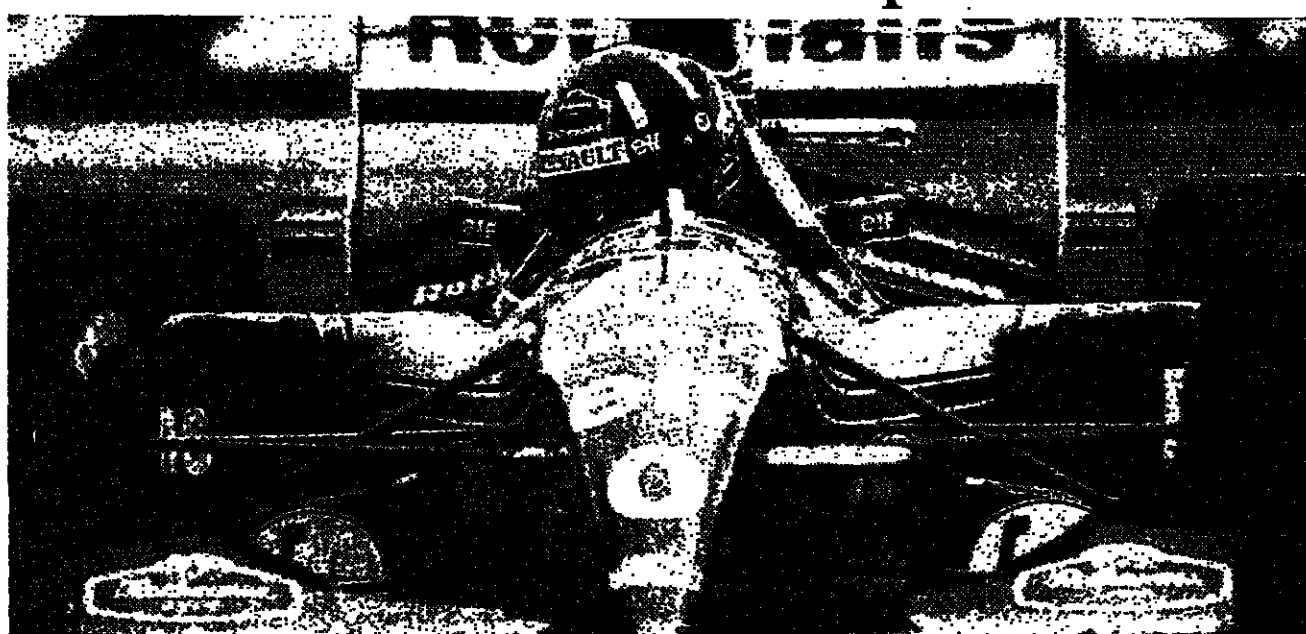
Schumacher was second-fastest in his Benetton-Ford at 1:16.197 — just 0.018 of a second slower — and said he felt no ill effects after his crash in the final seconds of the session as he attempted to improve on Mansell's time.

The German lost control in a chicane, hit a tire barrier, and then spun four times, losing two wheels and wrecking his car in the process.

He said he had complained Wednesday about the chicane being dangerous. "The officials made a little change, but it is still not good enough," he said.

Damon Hill, Mansell's teammate and compatriot and Schumacher's only rival for the world title, was third-quickest at 1:16.830 in the other Williams-Renault.

Mika Hakkinen of Finland



Britain's Damon Hill leans his Williams-Renault into a bend during the first qualifying session of the Australian GP (AFP photo)

was fourth-fastest in a McLaren-Peugeot at 1:16.992, Rubens Barrichello of Brazil was fifth in a Jordan-Hart at 1:17.537, and Eddi Irvine of Britain was sixth-fastest in a Jordan-Hart at 1:17.667.

The final qualifying session was scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

Schumacher leads the drivers' championship with 92 points going into the season-ending race. Hill has 91. Either would clinch the title with a win Sunday.

Hill's victory in last week's Japanese Grand Prix left him needing to score two more points than his German rival Sunday. A victory is worth 10 points, with the next five places worth 6, 4, 3, 2 and 1 point respectively.

A one-point margin would leave the pair tied and would give Schumacher the title because of his larger number of wins.

Schumacher, who at 25 is aiming to become the youngest world champion in almost 30 years, has won eight races this season. Hill has grabbed six.

Schumacher's crash sent

debris flying all over the track.

"I went up on the curb going into the chicane and the front of the car jumped away," he said. "I went onto the next curb and the car was sideways — out of control. The impact wasn't hard. It went into a spin where the impact was absorbed."

The German said he would be content to finish second behind Mansell in the season-ending race.

"The important thing is to get the championship," he said.

Hill, the 34-year-old son of former two-time world champions Graham Hill, took over as No. 1 driver for the Williams-Renault team after three-time world champion Ayrton Senna was killed in a crash at the San Marino Grand Prix in May.

The elder Hill, who won the championship as a rookie in 1966, died in a light plane crash in 1975.

Damon Hill was won four of the last five grands prix in a late-season surge and is aiming to become the first son of a world champion to take the drivers' title.

"I think we have learned a lot today, and with a bit of work tonight we will be able to put that information to good use for final qualifying," said Hill.

Hill, "it is good news that Nigel, who is being very helpful, is faster than Michael."

Mansell has twice started the Australian Grand Prix from pole position — in 1986 and 1992 — but has never won. He missed the 1993 race while in the United States, where he won the PPG Indy-car series.

The third-winningest racer of all time, Mansell will be seeking his 31st Formula One triumph on Sunday. "I was very, very happy today," he said.

The constructors' championship also will be decided in Adelaide. Williams-Renault currently has 108 points to Benetton-Ford's 103.

Ford to power Sauber in 1996

Meanwhile confirmed Friday that next year they will supply Formula One Team Sauber with their V8 engines which have powered the suc-

cessful Benetton team during this year's championship.

The Cosworth-engineered power units, which have helped championship-leading German Michael Schumacher to eight victories out of this year's 15 grands prix, will be supplied to the Swiss Sauber team on an exclusive basis.

Benetton announced earlier they would switch to Renault's V10 engines in 1995. Albert Caspers, chairman of Ford Europe, said he was delighted to complete the deal with Sauber.

In two years in Formula One, Peter Sauber has shown that he and his team have got it takes to compete at the highest level," he said. "We are very excited at the prospects."

Ford has been one of the giants of Formula One engine supply for the last 27 years. Last Sunday in Japan, the company celebrated running its 400th Grand Prix.

Ford made their Formula One debut at the Dutch Grand Prix in 1967 when Briton Jim Clark won in a Lotus powered by a Ford engine.

Worthy retires from NBA

INGLEWOOD (AP) — James Worthy, sometimes lost in the enormous shadows of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson when the Los Angeles Lakers dazzled the U.S. National Basketball Association, retired Thursday, severing the final link to those glory days.

When Abdul-Jabbar called it quits following the 1988-89 season, he left as the NBA's career scoring leader.

When Johnson left two years later after testing positive for the virus that causes AIDS, he was the league's career assist leader.

Yet neither could match Worthy's blinding speed on the wing of a fast break or his thunderous dunks.

And neither had a nickname like "big game James," which Worthy lived up to time and again during a 12-year career.

Worthy, 33, started this season on the injured list because of tendinitis in his left knee. He left the team last month when his mother died in North Carolina, and hasn't been with the Lakers since.

"It's been a wonderful, wonderful 12 years," Worthy said during a packed news

conference at the Forum, where the Lakers' style of play, dubbed "showtime," drew rave reviews during the 1980s.

"This is probably the happiest day of my life; at the same time, it's a sad occasion," he said. "I just got to the point where I didn't feel good physically."

"I couldn't make the contribution I needed to or wanted to. I definitely think it's the right time for me. I'll always remember today as my last day as a Laker."

Worthy said the death of his mother wasn't a factor. "I know she would want me to go on and play," he said.

Worthy, a seven-time All-Star and MVP of the 1988 finals, when the Lakers beat Detroit to win their most recent championship, joined the team in 1982 as the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft.

The 6-foot-9 (2.06-metre) forward from North Carolina helped the Lakers win three NBA championships.

"I'd just like to be remembered as a team player," he said. "There are so many fond memories I'll have to carry on with. To be a Laker was everything to me. We took it to another level. We

where just a step ahead. We couldn't do what we did without that chemistry, that unity."

Former teammates Abdul-Jabbar, Johnson and Michael Cooper, now an assistant with the Lakers, sat at the table with Worthy during the news conference.

Worthy averaged 17.9 points and 5.1 rebounds in 926 regular-season games and ranks 54th on the NBA scoring list with 16,320 points. He averaged 21.1 points and 5.2 rebounds in 143 playoff games.

Last season, Worthy played in 80 games and averaged 10.2 points, 2.3 rebounds and 20 minutes a game — all career lows — as the Lakers failed to make the playoffs for the first time in 18 years.

Worthy said the Lakers will honour the final two years of his contract, calling for him to earn \$7.2 million this season and \$5.15 million next season.

"Awaiting me after this retirement are some broadcast opportunities and some business ventures," Worthy said. "I can't ask for any more. I'd like to go back and change a few things, but I can't ask for any more."

Atlanta Olympic tickets go on sale May 1

NASHVILLE (R) — Tickets for the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta are tentatively set to go on sale next May 1, officials said Thursday.

Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), disclosed the date to reporters at the 1994 U.S. Olympic committee (USOC) congress here.

"From the best we can tell and calculate, we have approximately the same number of tickets available as Barcelo-

na, Los Angeles and Lillehammer combined," Payne later said in a speech at the USOC conference.

Nearly 12 million tickets will be on offer, officials said. "That's the good news. There are tickets for everybody," Payne said. "To some degree, of course, I must confess the bad news and that is some of the events will be immediately oversubscribed."

Payne said that tickets for some of the 560 sporting

events scheduled to take place during 17 days in July 1996 will be subjected to a lottery system similar.

"There will be some disappointed folks. However, every single event has a ticket available for as little as \$25. No event is priced out of the capability of the average American family," he added.

Ticket prices, which include the cost of transportation between venues, will range as high as \$250 for athletic events.

Ewing, O'Neal battle in playoff-caliber match

NEW YORK (AP) — Shaq had the big numbers. Patrick had the final word.

Shaquille O'Neal and Patrick Ewing turned an early season matchup between the division rivals Orlando and New York into a playoff-caliber battle Thursday night.

One night after getting 46 points and 60 rebounds

against Charlotte, O'Neal had 41 points and 17 rebounds against New York, scoring 10 straight points to tie the game at 99-all with 11 seconds left. But Ewing, who had 24 points, won it for the Knicks, hitting a fadeaway jumper with two seconds remaining for a 101-99 victory at Madison Square Garden.

In other National Basketball Association Games Thursday night, it was Atlanta 108, The Los Angeles Clippers 91, Portland 104, Sacramento 84, Detroit 112, Indiana 110, and Cleveland 108, Milwaukee 88.

Both Ewing, who made his first seven shots, and O'Neal, who hit his first four, missed

sizeable stretches of the game due to foul trouble.

Ewing played only two minutes of the third period after getting his fourth foul. O'Neal helped bring Orlando, which trailed by 14 in the second quarter, to 68-67 on a basket with 2:53 left in the third, but he immediately committed his fourth foul and

left the game.

"I think we came out a little flat, but I still think we played a good game and made a nice comeback in the second half," O'Neal said. "I have to stay in the game if we are going to win," though."

Anfernee Hardaway had 27 points for the Magic, and Nick Anderson added 19.

Charles Oakley had 16 points and 12 rebounds for New York, which also got 13 rebounds from Charles Smith.

After opening the season with wins against Phoenix and Seattle, it was back to reality for Sacramento, which shot only 34 per cent against visiting Portland.

Cliff Robinson scored 12 of his 25 points in the third quarter, and Rod Strickland scored all of his 16 points.

The Kings were led by Mitch Richmond's 23 points. Chris Dudley had 17 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have won 16 of the last 17 from Sacramento.

Atlanta coach Lenny Wilkens finally got a win after the Hawks' 0-4 start, their worst in 23 years.

Wilkens is 12 victories away from surpassing Red Auerbach's record 938 career coaching wins.

Stacy Augmon had 25 points for the hawks, who led 80-65 after three quarters. Loy Vaught had 20 points in the winless Clippers' home opener.

Rookie Grant Hill led Detroit with 23 points, and Joe Dumars scored four points in the final minute at Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Trailing by 17 points in the third quarter, Detroit got 13 points in the period from Hill as the Pistons rallied to win their third straight game.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Located in Jabal Amman, Third Circle, within a well-kept pleasant building in a quiet neighbourhood. Two bedrooms each with a closed-in veranda. Dining and living room, one bathroom. Own central heating and telephone. Fully equipped kitchen.

Phone 641340 (8:30-10:30 a.m. & 1-4 p.m.)

CARS FOR SALE-DUTY UNPAID

★ Mercedes 320S May 1994, silver colour. Brand new, unused. Full options.

★ Jeep Cherokee 1991, black colour, full options. In excellent condition, complete check-ups.

Please call Tel. 686245/6

A UNIQUE LIVE KARAOKE NIGHT

BE A STAR AT THE CELLAR

EVERY MONDAY

SING ALONE OR WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND BE A STAR WITH THE DIAMONDS BAND

HAPPY HOUR DAILY FROM 6-8 P.M. 50% DISCOUNTS ON ALL DRINKS

The Cellar

Hard Habit to Break

Bhutanani - Opp. Peking Restaurant, Tel. 686460-686771/2 Please Call For Reservations

NO TICKETS REQUIRED - JUST RESERVE

FOR YOUR KIDS 10-15 Years

ON THE OCCASION OF H.M. KING HUSSEIN'S BIRTHDAY

vis.à.vis

At Turino Presents

REPLAY FOOTBALL GAMES FINALS

"MEMORABILIA"

An Unusual Event Please Check Program

الانين 14/11/94 Monday 14/11/94

Football, Burgers & Fun

SWEIFYEH - 816690

FOR RENT

Fully furnished apartment, 3 bedrooms with built-in cabinets, salon, dining and living room, big kitchen, maid's room and 4 bathrooms, net area about 230 sq.m. Telephone, central heating and lift. Brand new furniture. Located between the 7th Circle and Mecca Street, near the Music Box.

Please call 862657

ARGIMON

Instituto Cervantes en Ammán, del 10 al 25 de Noviembre de 1994

معروض ارجيمون

المركز الثقافي الإسباني عمان من 10 إلى 25 تشرين ثاني 1994

Instituto Cervantes

LEATHER GIFTS CENTRE

Jabal Amman/Rainbow Street, Tel. 650827

We have just received a collection of ladies and men's gloves retail and wholesale.

★ Moschino bags

★ Versace bags

Also fancy wallets and belts and all kinds of leather gifts

Europe's best companies.

T D A Y	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	Leslie Nielsen & Priscilla Presley in Naked Gun 33 1/3 The Final Insult Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Gary Daniels & Ian Jacklin in American Street Fighter Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' Whoopi Goldberg — In Sister Act Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' SPEED Shows: 3:15, 5:00	Presents "Water is a Gift of Life" A family and children play produced and directed by: Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10 a.m. For reservations call tel.: 618274 - 618275	Announces a temporary suspension of the performance Qirbeh Makhzouqa "Punctured Bag" We will announce the resumption of the play in its new form later on.	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.

هناك منة لأصل

Arms control talks end with accord on confidence building

By P.V. Vivekanand
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The regional working group on arms control and security of the Middle East peace process has produced its first concrete project — agreement to set up a centre to prevent conflict in the region — during an inter-annual meeting held last week in Amman.

The three-day meeting, held at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel, concluded Thursday evening with agreements to build confidence-building measures, including prior notification of army exercises and to work out a framework to carry out rescue efforts in the event of natural disasters in the region.

The meeting, which brought together 22 countries including Jordan and Israel, accepted a Jordanian proposal to set up a "conflict-prevention and regional security centre" in the Middle East along the lines of a similar body which is part of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Dr. Toukan announced after the meeting that the participants also agreed to set up a "security/military communication network system" to prevent accidents and to exchange information and prior notifications on military

exercises. The Hague will serve as the temporary headquarters of the proposed communications centre pending the final arrangements, which aim at bringing in other countries in the region not involved in the multilateral phase of the peace process at this point in time.

The conference, which will present its agreements and recommendations to a full-planned meeting of the regional working group to be held in Tunisia in December, also agreed to work out a mechanism to prevent accidental conflicts at sea among the naval countries of the region.

Among the first step towards setting up "conflict-prevention" centre is an undertaking by all countries in the region to provide complete information of all the weapons they possess with a view to setting up a data bank on arms in the Middle East, long known to be the most lucrative market for the Western arms industry.

Observers believe that Israel, which has for long refused to acknowledge its reported nuclear arsenal, would balk at providing such information. So far, it has only said that it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

Dr. Toukan said agreements for eliminating

weapons of mass destruction could be phased in as peace talks moved on.

"You cannot have a weapons of mass destruction free zone without a comprehensive peace and vice-versa," he said. "They go hand in hand."

Most Arab states are reluctant to make commitments on cutting conventional weapons until they have dealt with their main concern — Israel's nuclear potential.

Turkey, the Palestinians, Egypt, the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, Yemen, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Canada, France and Australia attended the talks.

Syria and Lebanon, which have boycotted all multilateral negotiations, stayed away, as did Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Libya.

"As a result of the meetings, there is a bright prospect for serious agreements to reduce the chance of conflict at sea and on the ground and to arrive at a culture of common preparation towards security in the region," Frederick Axtelgard, from the U.S. State Department, told the closing session.

"We had serious progress on exchange of military information, particularly involving major movements of troops on the ground," he said.

A Turkish delegate said

Israel extended invitations to participants to visit military facilities inside Israel.

"There are specific invitations by Israel...to see their defence industry installations," said Suha Umar, head of the Turkish delegation to the meeting.

He said the invitations are in principle and dates will be fixed in "the coming days," and added that the invitations were received "very positively" by the Arab delegations present at the talks.

The invitations came along with a list of 12 recommendations, Mr. Umar said.

"We have worked out some 12 confidence-building measures, the most important of them being the prior notification of military exercises" which might take place in the various countries in the region, he said.

He said other recommendations included the establishment of the conflict prevention centre in the Middle East and the exchange of "information on the organisation structure of their (regional countries) militaries...how many divisions they have, who governs them, where are their headquarters."

David Ivory, head of the Israeli delegation, said: "I think there was a lot of good-will, including some Gulf participants who were somewhat more hesitant in earlier talks."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wadi Abdoun homes to be torn down

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipal Council has decided to destroy houses established on municipal-owned land in Wadi Abdoun area which was flooded by rain water last week. The board meeting, chaired by Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi, decided to allocate land to the occupants of these buildings to enable them to establish houses on them.

Mandela congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday received a cable from South African President Nelson Mandela congratulating him on the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Mr. Mandela said he was certain Jordan and Israel "will enjoy a lasting and comprehensive peace" after signing the treaty.

Boulder threatens 500 families in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — The torrential rain that lashed Egypt last week caused parts of a huge boulder to fall onto a shanty town in eastern Cairo, injuring six people and threatening 500 families still living below, a semi-official newspaper reported in its early Friday edition. The families, who live in the Ezbeh Jedidah district of the Mokattam Hills area, have been "living in complete terror" since Nov. 2 when the storm hit, Al Gomhuriyya newspaper said. Their fear stems partly from memories of a huge mountain slab that fell onto another shanty town in Mokattam in December 1993, killing tens of people and leaving hundreds more homeless. According to the paper, when residents of Ezbeh Jedidah complained to police they were answered with

orders to clear out of their homes — easier said than done for the area's impoverished inhabitants. "We want the officials to come and see our situation for mercy's sake," Al Gomhuriyya quoted Sabah Abbas, whose arm was broken by the falling rocks, as saying. "Our lives are threatened with homelessness," she added. Ms. Abbas is the mother of four, and her family's home consists of one room, according to the paper.

India to train Afghan commercial pilots

NEW DELHI (AP) — India will train Afghan airline pilots and allow more commercial flights between Kabul and New Delhi. The civil aviation ministers of the two countries reached an agreement in this regard during their meeting in New Delhi on Friday, Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported. PTI said India will also consider Afghan minister Abdul Rehman's request for maintenance facilities for Ariana Afghan Airlines aircraft at New Delhi airport. Ariana Afghan will operate more flights to and from New Delhi to fill in state-owned Indian Airlines slot. India's civil aviation minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, said. The Indian Airlines stopped flying to Kabul five years ago because of internal strife there. The Ariana Afghan Airlines has been flying between New Delhi and Kabul, depending on the war conditions in Afghanistan.

Pro-Arafat activist assassinated

SIDON (AP) — A loyalist of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was shot to death at his house in the 'Ein Al Hilweh refugee camp near this southern Lebanese port city Friday, police said. A police statement identified the victim as Ziad Hasan Sharaf, 41, an activist of Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction.



His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday exchange documents of ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in Tiberias (Photo by Youssef Allan)

Press, mixed identities at new crossing, on Tiberias shores

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A warm relaxed atmosphere prevailed Thursday at the opening of the second Jordan-Israel crossing point, although Israeli enthusiasm for the occasion was in greater evidence than that of the Jordanian onlookers.

Invited guests and journalists from both sides of the border intermingled freely.

Formality was lax. Israeli women, whether in military dress or plain clothes, sauntered about with long hair flowing untidily.

A not so common sight for those east of the river was the number of men with equally long and untidy hair, not to mention the body hugging, cleavage showing clothing and miniskirts that glared revealingly at those more accustomed to a modest code of dress.

Once accredited by the Jordanian Ministry of Information as a member of the press corps, passports were essential. Providing your name was on the official list a pass as affixed to the chest, with another tucked to that, from Israeli authorities, after crossing the bridge. There was yet another doled out when it was time to pass into Israeli territory proper, through what will be passport control.

Symbolism abounded at the ceremony: Participation of the latest generation

in the form of Jordanian and Israeli boy and girl scouts; a flight by-pass of light civilian aircraft the last of which towed a banner reading "peace" in Arabic, English and Hebrew; and the release of doves after the bridge had been officially opened.

Foreign members of the Jordanian press were misidentified as Israelis by Jordanians and Israelis alike. In the jovial atmosphere two Jordanians photographed themselves alongside the "foreign" ones. Realising their mistake they left disappointed to find someone more authentic, while Israelis continued their camera clicking uncertain that these foreign reporters were representative of Jordan in name and sentiment but obviously not in nationality.

Having been bedecked with the third press tag of the day the media boarded buses bound for Lake Tiberias.

Installed on the bus all were handed packed lunches which kept the mob quiet for a while. On the other hand, it may have been the extent of development in an area casually described by the Israeli guide as "rural" that brought silence.

Fields and fields of crops watered by automated sprinkler systems; brimming reservoirs with pumps turning the water presumably to prevent stagnation; grassed road verges; tree-

shaded play areas; houses encircled with lawns and the odd factory were seen en route.

In accordance with smoking policies in the developed world, the Israelis too have enforced a ban on smoking in public places. Hence the smooth rolling bus was plastered with no-smoking signs and lacked a single ashtray. No complaint was made though, when the majority of the Jordanian press chose to light up.

At Bet Gabriel, an arts and culture centre blessed with a small press, located on the southern shores of Lake Tiberias, the setting was even more informal despite the imminent arrival of His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Rabin and other dignitaries, as reporters and television crew encircled themselves on the grass leading down to the picturesque, blue waters of the lake.

All the while hundreds of children waved Jordanian and Israeli flags in the streets outside the centre in anticipation for first public visit of King Hussein to the Jewish state.

Excluding the significance of the ratified peace documents, it was a pleasant outing for those who had never been able to enter Israel before. Some even managed a brief excursion to the shops and despite the noticeable greater cost, indulged in a few goodies for the journey home.

Arafat gives Hamas role in PLO courts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, in a sign of cooperation with the rival Hamas group, has given it two seats on the bench of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-run religious courts in Gaza and the West Bank, PLO officials said on Friday.

"Yes, we do have political differences, but we remain one people and we can't accept distancing ourselves from our people," said Sheikh Hamed Al Bitawi, accepting his appointment to the West Bank court.

Sheikh Bitawi said he was close to the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. Sheikh Mahmoud Salameh, who describes himself as an Islamic leader close to Hamas, was appointed to the bench of the religious court in Palestinian-ruled Gaza. He was unavailable for comment but Sheikh Bitawi told Reuters that Sheikh Salameh had accepted the job.

Religious courts deal with land disputes, marriages, divorces, and most other religious and legal matters. PLO officials said Mr. Arafat and leaders of Hamas in the West Bank and Gaza have held several meetings to formulate a common political agenda and to lay the ground for cooperation.

A committee made up of Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction and Hamas leaders were preparing for a large gathering of all groups, opponents and proponents of the peace process in Gaza, the officials said.

The meeting, headed by Mr. Arafat, would set the guidelines for cooperation between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Islamic militants opposed to his peace deal with Israel.

Despite Israeli pressure on Mr. Arafat to clamp down on

Army claims capture of Huambo

LISBON (AFP) — Angolan government troops on Friday seized control of the rebel stronghold of Huambo, ending fighting in the central highlands city, Angola's presidential spokesman said.

The government expects to go ahead Tuesday with the signing of a peace pact initialled with the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the spokesman, Adomiro da Conceicao, told the Portuguese radio TSF.

"There are no more attacks against the city of Huambo, which is in the hands of government forces," Mr. Da Conceicao said.

The Luanda government plans to keep its negotiating team in the Zambian capital Lusaka, where the peace accord was initialled on Oct. 31, and wants it signed "as agreed in the Lusaka protocol," he added.

Top brass of the Angolan military were in Lusaka on Friday waiting to negotiate with their UNITA counterparts, the government chief delegate, General Pedro Neto, said.

Gen. Neto told TSF that he would wait "for a reasonable amount of time" for the arrival of UNITA military chiefs to discuss the implementation of a planned ceasefire.

UNITA failed to send a team to the Zambian capital as scheduled on Thursday as government soldiers and aircraft laid siege to Huambo, and said it would not sign the peace pact unless the offensive was halted.

The accord was due to be formally signed by rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos next Tuesday.



Hillary Clinton speaks of deep personal losses

LONDON (AP) — Hillary Clinton says deep personal losses she and President Bill Clinton have suffered in the past two years have diminished the significance of bad publicity and criticism, the BBC said Friday. In an interview conducted before this week's elections for broadcast Saturday, Mrs. Clinton speaks of mistakes made in the administration's health-care plan and of the Clintons' efforts to preserve their privacy. The BBC said. A BBC news release issued before the broadcast quoted Mrs. Clinton as saying: "In the last 20 months we have suffered the loss of my father and mother-in-law and the tragic death of our friend Vince Foster. That puts things into somewhat of a perspective. 'Those were very deep personal losses to the president and me and stacked against those the adverse publicity. The partisanship, the name-calling that seems, unfortunately, to be a part of American politics today, seem somewhat insignificant. It is, on occasion, hurtful.' She is quoted as saying she did not feel angry when the health-care plan ran into trouble. "I couldn't get angry because that takes too much energy; what I wanted to understand is why it happened, what we did wrong. I mean I think we made mistakes and we learned a lot about how to present this issue and what the American people were ready for and what they were not ready for..." Mrs. Clinton said she and the president had worked very hard to preserve their privacy and that the American press had cooperated with their request for their daughter Chelsea to be given the opportunity to be "a normal teenager," the BBC said.

"We have really worked hard at the time we have together as a couple and as a family," she is quoted as saying.

Japan royals apologise for lost medal

TOKYO (R) — Japan's imperial household was forced to make an embarrassing public apology Friday after losing a medal of honour presented to Emperor Akihito by Spain's King Juan Carlos. The decoration, given to the emperor nine years ago, went astray last month when the usually efficient imperial household agency forgot to pack the medal for an official royal visit to Spain and tried to send it on later by air. The unaccompanied package went missing after being put on an Iberia Airlines flight to Madrid and the emperor, to the acute embarrassment of his entourage, had to borrow a substitute from the Spanish government for a state banquet. "We feel very sorry for giving much trouble to His Majesty. We also expressed our regret to the Spanish government," said Shioichi Fujimori, the director general of the agency, after the loss of the medal was reported in the Japanese media. "We are making great efforts to find the medal in cooperation with the Spanish government," he said. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Spain on the final leg of a 13-day state visit to Europe in October. "We should have made our staff carry the decoration directly to Madrid. We have done something that is extremely impolite to Spain," a household agency official said.

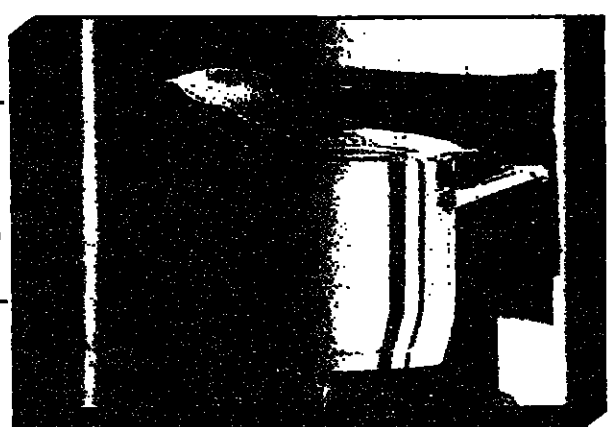
Nina Ricci makes S. Korean debut

SEOUL (AFP) — Nina Ricci of Paris Friday drew a packed house when it staged the first show of French haute couture in South Korea, presenting its fall-winter collection, witnesses said. The afternoon show, featuring all French models, was the first of four to be held Friday and Saturday in the South Korean capital, and came as an increasing number of young South Korean designers are making their way to Paris.

Nina Ricci ready-to-wear and perfumes are already retailing in South Korea, and Gilles Fuchs, Nina Ricci Paris president, said the company ties with Seoul duty-free stores.

ZEPTER INTERNATIONAL

High Grade
Stainless Steel Cookware
With Lifetime Guarantee



We take care of people's nourishment in the four continents all over the world

From now on ZEPTER Cookware in your homes too!

We know how to care about your health by healthy nourishment:

- boiling without water
- frying without oil

It is not only feeding, it is nourishing yourself!



A. Hajarat Commercial Complex
Suwailfieh, Amman 11185
Jordan

Sole distributor Est. L. Zaatar
Tel. No. 864336